

DIRECTIONS FOR OPERATING
THE DURABILT F. O. MINUTE BOOK
(FLEXIBLE POSTS) SHORT PULL ROD STYLE

PATENT 967537—1019174—1056926—1247438—1247704—1738305
ABOVE PATENT NUMBERS MUST NOT BE COVERED

TO UNLOCK the book, raise cover to be unlocked to a vertical position, and pull rod out as far as it will come.

TO LOCK—Adjust the cover back into position so the notches in the cover fit over the posts, then push in rod.

Do not attempt to unlock either cover unless opposite cover is locked, as posts should always be held in one of the covers.

TO LOCK BOOK PERMANENTLY—This is only to be done when all the sheets are written up and placed in the binder, for once permanently locked, it is impossible to unlock or open it.

For this purpose two permanent locking buttons are furnished. Insert these sealing buttons into the round holes near end of locking case so that the slot in the Sealing Button runs lengthwise with the binder. Then drive in button with sufficient force to turn the ends of split button. This permanently locks and seals the book.

MADE IN U. S. A.

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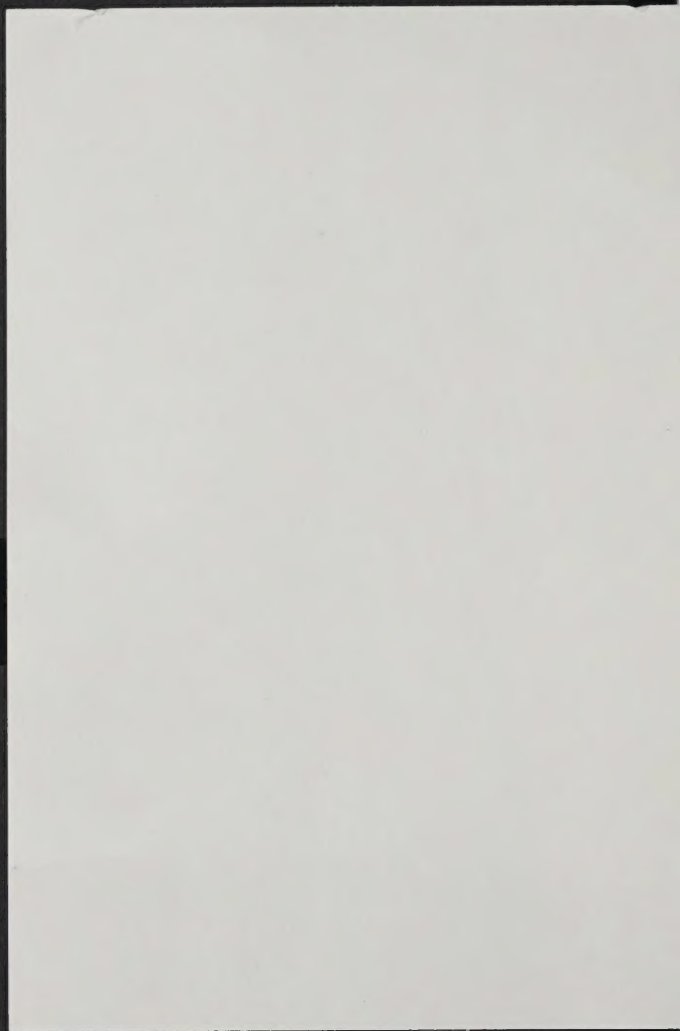
MADE IN U. S. A.

STATIONERS' LOOSE LEAF COMPANY
MILWAUKEE NEW YORK

APPOINTMENTS

Jack McGlynn	1982 to 1987
Bernadette Opp	1983 to 1988
Neil Shepherd	1984 to 1989
John Gallagher	1985 to 1990
Robert Durkee	1986 to 1991

NOTE: Second year on Board-Vice Chairman
Third year on Board - Chairman
Last year on Board - Secretary



APPOINTMENTS

~~Vince Caciari - 1980 to 1985~~

~~John Grauman - 1981 to 1986~~

Jack McGlynn - 1982 to 1987

Bernadette Opp - 1983 to 1988

Neil Shepherd - 1984 to 1989

~~Vince C - 1985 to 1986 -~~

John Gallagher - 1985 to 1990

Robert Durkee - 1986 to 1991

NOTE: Second year on Baord V.C.

Third year on Board-Chairman

Last year on Board Secretary



APPOINTMENTS:

~~Leslie~~ 1970

~~Hardie~~ 1971

~~Lindborg~~ 1972

~~Lelek~~ 1973

~~Eskildsen~~ 1974 →

~~Cacairi~~ 1975

~~Grauman~~ 1976

McGlynn 1977

Doyle 1978

Eskildsen 1979 - C-81-82

Cacairi 1980 - C-82-83

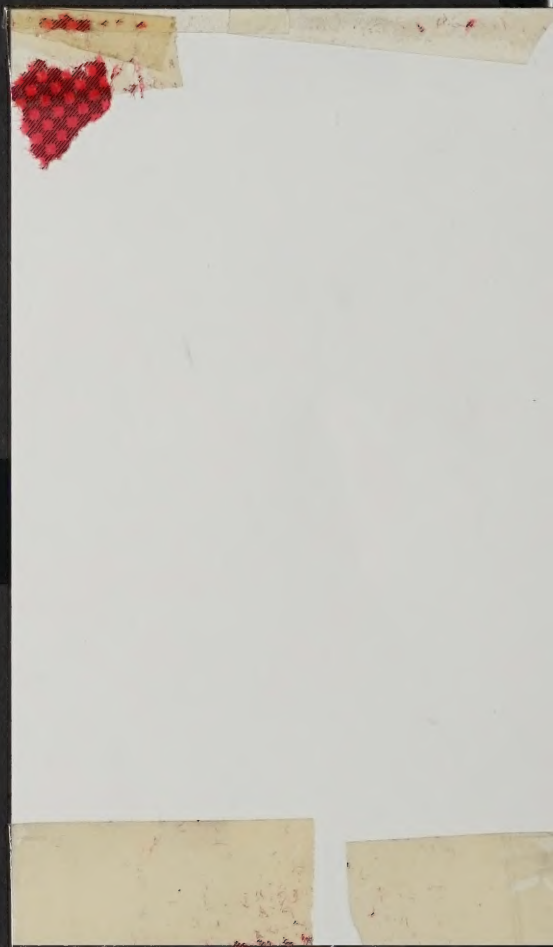
Grauman 1981 - C-83-84

McGlynn 1982

Shepherd 1983

ESTILDSSEN 1984

Cacairi 1985





Helena, Montana
October 24, 1963

A regular meeting of the Montana Veterans' Welfare Commission was held October 23, 1963, at Fort Harrison, Montana.

The meeting convened at 2 PM, called to order by the Chairman, and the following were present:

Norman Hazelwood,	Chairman
Joseph Grenier,	Vice-Chairman
Walter Barnard,	Secretary
Russell Lindborg,	Member
Charles Lelek,	Member
Harry E. Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary,	Asst. Secretary

Minutes of the meeting of July 1, 1963, were read and approved.

Claims No. 543 thru 548, and 1 thru 202, were read: Relief checks #14287 thru 14294 were read. Walter Barnard moved that these claims be approved, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg, and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the hiring of Vivian Goble as stenographer in the Shelby office by the Director, beginning July 8, 1963, at a salary of \$200.00 per month, be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the following increases given certain Commission personnel be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried:

Ruth Mittlestadt, stenographer, Billings, increased from \$275.00 to \$290.00 per month, effective August 1, 1963, due to press of work in the Billings office:

Hermann J. Bauer, service officer at Great Falls, increased from \$400.00 to \$425.00 per month, effective July 1, 1963:

George Tate, service officer, Bozeman, increased from \$400.00 to \$425.00 per month, effective July 1, 1963:

Geraldine King, stenographer, Wolf Point, increased from \$250.00 to \$260.00 per month, effective July 1, 1963:

Leon Christiaens, service officer and accountant, Helena, increased \$375.00 to \$400.00 from October 1, 1963:

Harvey Milton, service officer, Miles City, increased from \$350.00 to \$375.00 per month, from October 1, 1963:

Arlene R. Larson, stenographer, Kalispell, increased from \$250.00 to \$265.00 per month, effective October 1, 1963:

Barbara Jo Petroff, stenographer, Missoula, from \$250.00 to \$265.00 per month, effective October 1, 1963.

An acknowledgment of the floral offering to Charles Pew was read.

Russell Lindborg moved, that although written authority had been given the Director to attend the Insurance Conference of the VA in Minneapolis thru regular procedure, the Commission now give a voice vote of approval for the record. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried.

Considerable discussion was carried on concerning the fee of Howard Johnson, attorney for the Commission in its suit in the Supreme Court occasioned by the DAV and VFW service organizations in an effort to force payment by the Commission of salaries to the stenographers for the two organizations at Fort Harrison thru a special appropriation made by the last Legislature in the form of a line item to the Commission's appropriation. Walter Barnard had previously been requested to discuss this matter with Mr. Johnson. After considerable talking on the matter, it was finally decided to let the matter rest until the end of the 1965 fiscal year so a determination could be made as to how much money would be turned back to the General Fund from the Commission's appropriation as that would determine the payment to Mr. Johnson.

Claude Meredith, Manager of the VA Hospital, paid the Commission a visit during its meeting and discussed admittance of veterans to the hospital.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Walter Barnard
Secretary

Norman Hazelwood (Not signed by
Chairman
Chairman due to his death and
death of Vice-Chairman)

Helena, Montana
February 20, 1964

A regular meeting of the Montana Veterans Welfare Commission was held at Fort Harrison, Montana, February 19, 1964:

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, and present were the following:

Norman Hazelwood	Chairman
Joseph Grenier	Vice-Chairman
Walter Barnard	Secretary
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
Ethel S. Trenary	Assistant Secretary

Russell Lindborg of Missoula was unable to be present due to previous business commitments.

Charles Lelek of Lewistown was unable to be present due to illness.

The Minutes of the Meeting of October 23, 1963, were read and approved as read.

Claims # 203 thru 387, and Relief Checks #14295 thru 14296, and 142301 were read. Walter Barnard moved that these claims and checks be approved, motion seconded by Joseph Grenier, and carried.

Resignations of the following employees were accepted:

Darlene Wruck, stenographer at Bozeman, December 1, 1963
Lorraine Meyer, stenographer at Great Falls, February 28, 1964

Walter Barnard moved that the hiring of the following new employees be approved:

Carolyn Wink, stenographer at Bozeman, November 25, 1963, at a salary of \$235.00 per month:

David Armstrong, accountant-service officer in the state office, December 2, 1963, at a salary of \$400.00 per month, replacing Leon Christiaens.

Motion seconded by Joseph Grenier and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the following increases granted by the Director be approved:

Donald Wilcox, service officer, Shelby from \$350.00 to \$375.00 per month, effective January 1, 1964:

Vivian Goble, stenographer, Shelby, from \$200.00 to \$225.00 per month, effective January 1, 1964:

Motion seconded by Joseph Grenier and carried.

Walter Barnard made a report concerning the bill owed Howard Johnson, legal counsel for the Commission in its Supreme Court case. Mr. Barnard was requested to again discuss the matter with Mr. Johnson and advise him the Commission had budgeted its appropriations and could not draw the money immediately to pay him, but would, by the end of the fiscal year be able to determine whether he could be paid in full at that time, or half this year and half next year. At the time the Commission's Budget was presented last year, the Commission did not anticipate the cost of services

to be as much as presented, \$2500.00. Mr. Barnard was to report his discussion with Mr. Johnson at the next Commission meeting, when the matter of payment will be fully discussed.

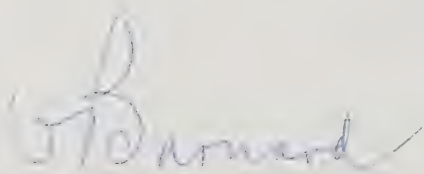
Walter Barnard moved that the Director be allowed to attend the National Rehabilitation Conference in March 1964, in Washington, D. C., and the meeting of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs. Motion was seconded by Joseph Grenier and carried.

The Director read a letter from the Governor regarding his efficiency and economy in State Government. The Commission was asked to review its program and prepare a Biennial Budget in keeping with the Governor's recommendations. The Director was requested to answer the Governor, advising the Commission would comply with his request to the best of its ability, and that the Commission agrees wholeheartedly with the Governor's opinion of economy in government.

Claude Meredith, Center Director of the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison, Montana, visited the Commission during its meeting and gave a resume of the hospital's activities.

The Director advised the Commission that the Pamphlet entitled "House Committee Print #157, Disposition of Claims by Regional Offices, for the Month of October 1963" indicated that the Commission handled 53 claims for compensation, and 98 claims for pension during that month; further that the Commission handled 58% of the claims at Fort Harrison for that month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Secretary

Norman Hazelwood (these minutes not signed by

Chairman

Chairman or Vice Chairman due to death of both)

Helena, Montana
June 26, 1964

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State office, Horsky Block, Helena, Montana, on June 26, 1964.

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary at 2 PM. Present were the following:

Walter Barnard,	Secretary
Russell Lindborg,	Member
Charles Lelek,	Member
Harry E. Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary,	Asst. Secretary

Norman Hazelwood, Chairman, was unable to be present due to illness, and the death of Joseph Grenier, Vice-Chairman, created that vacancy.

Minutes of the meeting of February 19, 1964, were read and approved.

Russell Lindborg moved that Claims #388 thru #599, and Relief Checks #142302 thru #142305, be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and passed.

Russell Lindborg moved that the following employees hired by the Director be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried:

Mrs. Marie Hinman, Clerk in the state office, hired April 1, 1964, at a salary of \$125.00 per month, part-time employment, replacing Mrs. Jane Lofthouse resigned:

Mrs. Ione Turck, stenographer at Great Falls, hired February 25, 1964, at a salary of \$225.00 per month:

Charles Lelek moved that the following increases previously made be approved, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried:

David Armstrong, accountant-service officer, Helena, from \$400.00 to \$425.00 per month, effective June 1, 1964:

Mrs. Ione Turck, stenographer, Great Falls, from \$225.00 to \$250.00 per month, effective June 1, 1964:

Russell Lindborg, at the request of the Director, moved that the salary of Wilson William Hildenbrandt, Claims Officer in the state office, be increased from \$425.00 per month to \$450.00 effective July 1, 1964, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

A thank-you card was read from Mrs. Joseph Grenier expressing appreciation for flowers sent Joseph Grenier.

Walter Barnard stated he had contacted Mr. Johnson relative to the manner of payment for services rendered in the Commission's Court case, and that it was agreeable with Mr. Johnson whichever way the Commission felt it could pay the bill, either in full at this time, or half this year and half next. After some discussion it was decided that a motion be made to pay it in full, which could later be changed if necessary after further study of finances. Russell Lindborg moved the approval of the claim in the amount of \$2500.00 for services rendered and that the Commission pay the same, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

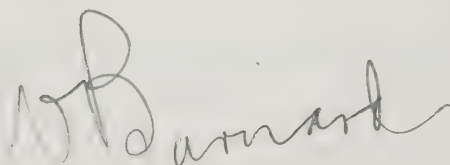
The matter of proposed increases for employees was then discussed, and the Director stated he would like more time to study same before making recommendations. Russell Lindborg moved that the ~~proposed~~ increases to employees be left to the discretion of the Director and suggestions made at the next meeting, motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried.

The Director advised that the Chairman of the Commission was presently hospitalized in the hospital at Bismarck, North Dakota, and upon hearing the news the Commission was desirous of sending him a card wishing him a fast recovery, which was done at this meeting.

The Commission requested the Director to draw up a Resolution in behalf of the Commission to be sent to Mrs. Grenier expressing the Commission's sorrow at the loss of Joseph Grenier who had been a member for so many years.

Discussion was held on the misrepresentation and adverse publicity being given the Commission by the DAV, and the Director read from the compilation of the VA for the month of April of cases handled by the Commission at Fort Harrison in comparison with other organizations. The Commission handled 63% of the 265 cases handled at Fort Harrison that month. Charles Lelek moved that Ethel compile the statistics in letter form and send it to the Commissioners, and make a news release to be publicized extensively, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned, with a tentative date of July 24th being set for the next meeting at which time the Budget would be taken up. Said meeting was tentively set to be held at Russell Lindborg's summer home on Seeley Lake.



Secretary

Norman Hazelwood (these minutes not signed
Chairman

by Chairman or Vice-Chairman due to death
of both)

c
o
p
y

Helena, Montana
June 29, 1964

Mrs. Joseph Grenier
Deer Lodge,
Montana

Dear Mary:

The members of the Veterans Welfare Commission, at a called meeting on June 26, 1964, took action to remember the contributions of Joseph Grenier to the veterans of Montana.

He had been a long time member of the Veterans Welfare Commission having served two separate terms. He made every effort to attend all called and regular meetings, and his advice and decisions were always for the good of the veteran. He was patient with those who were friendly toward veterans, and impatient with those who exploited or belittled those who had worn the uniform of their country.

He was not one to make rash or uninformed decisions, rather he gave thought and effort to be fair and equitable to deserving veterans.

He was an excellent individual in his dealings with the employees of the Veterans Welfare Commission, and at all times gave them the benefit of any doubt.

We will miss his cheerful chuckle or explosive temper, depending on whether he approved or disapproved of the matter at hand.

He was a friend of all of us, and will be sorely missed by all who served with him on the Veterans Welfare Commission.

s/ Norman Hazelwood
Chairman

s/ Walter Barnard
Secretary

The Commission on the Status of Women, established in 1946, was the first of its kind. It was created by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to study, investigate and make recommendations regarding the position of women in society.

The Commission has since held numerous sessions, with the most recent being the 48th session in 1994. It has produced a wealth of reports and recommendations on a wide range of issues affecting women, including violence against women, reproductive rights, and gender equality in the workplace.

United Nations
New York, New York
June 14, 1994

The Commission on the Status of Women is pleased to announce that it will be holding its 48th session in 1994. The session will be held in New York, New York, from June 14 to June 18, 1994.

The Commission will be holding a series of meetings during the session, including a plenary meeting, a meeting of the chairpersons of the working groups, and a meeting of the experts. The Commission will also be holding a series of public hearings and consultations with civil society organizations.

The Commission will be focusing on a number of key issues during the session, including violence against women, reproductive rights, and gender equality in the workplace. The Commission will also be reviewing its work on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Commission will be holding a series of public hearings and consultations with civil society organizations. The Commission will also be holding a series of meetings with the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Children's Fund.

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United Nations
New York, New York
June 14, 1994

United Nations
New York, New York
June 14, 1994

Helena, Montana
July 24, 1964

A meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State Office in Helena, Montana, July 24, 1964.

The meeting was called to order by Walter Barnard, Secretary, at 12 Noon and present were the following:

Walter Barnard, Secretary
Russell Lindborg, Member
Charles Lelek, Member
Kenneth Leslie, New Member

Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Asst. Secy.

Mr. Hazelwood, Chairman was unable to be present due to illness.

The Commission welcomed Mr. Kenneth Leslie, new member, replacing Joseph Grenier, deceased, for the remaining term of Mr. Grenier's appointment.

The Minutes of the meeting of June 26th, 1964, were read and approved.

Russell Lindborg moved that Claims 1 thru 41 be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that Relief Check 142306 be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that the attached sheet of increases granted Commission personnel, in accordance with discussion at the meeting held June 26, 1964, be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

There being no further unfinished or old business, Russell Lindborg moved for adjournment of the Commission for the purpose of reorganization of the Commission due to appointment of a new member.

Motions were called for chairman, and Walter Barnard moved that Russell Lindborg be nominated as Chairman; Kenneth Leslie moved nominations be closed. Walter Barnard moved that Charles Lelek be nominated as Vice-Chairman. Kenneth Leslie moved nominations be closed. Kenneth Leslie moved that Norman Hazelwood be nominated Secretary. Charles Lelek moved nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Russell Lindborg as Chairman, Charles Lelek, Vice-Chairman and Norman Hazelwood, Secretary. Motion carried.

A general discussion was held on the Budget. After considerable discussion as to coverage of the Budget, Walter Barnard moved that the Budget be adopted as amended. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried.

The Commission requested the Director to advise them if it developed a meeting with the Budget Director was necessary or advisable, and to inform them as to an agreeable date after consultation with the Budget Director.

Charles Lelek moved that the Director be authorized to attend the National Convention of the American Legion in Dallas, Texas, September 18 thru 24, 1964. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Kenneth H. Leslie
Acting Secretary

Russell W. Lindberg
Chairman

RECEIVED

JUL 23 1964

VETERANS WELFARE COMMISSION
HELENA, MONTANA

P.O. Box 1702
Helena, Montana

July 1, 1964

State Board of Examiners
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Gentlemen:

The Veterans' Welfare Commission requests authority for increases on the July 1964 payroll for the following under the approved budget for the fiscal year 1964-1965:

Wilson W. Hildenbrandt, Claims Officer, State Office, Helena from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

Joseph D. Fellows, Service Officer, Billings from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

George R. Tate, Service Officer, Bozeman from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

William M. Daley, Service Officer, Butte from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

Albert A. Miron, Service Officer, Kalispell from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

Warren H. Harlow, Service Officer, Missoula from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

George F. Loucks, Service Officer, Wolf Point from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

Ethel S. Trenary, Executive Secretary, State Office, Helena from \$425.00 to \$450.00 per month.

Ruth B. Mittlestadt, Stenographer, Billings from \$290.00 to \$300.00 per month.

Carolyn L. Wink, Stenographer, Bozeman from \$235.00 to \$260.00 per month.

Ruth Boyles, Stenographer, Butte from \$275.00 to \$300.00 per month.

Nancy Ann Leo, Stenographer, Miles City from \$275.00 to \$300.00 per month.

continued - page 2

Geraldine J. King, Stenographer, Wolf Point from \$260.00 to \$285.00 per month.

Funds are available under account 750-1 (Operation & Capital) for the fiscal year 1964-1965.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Armstrong, Jr.
David W. Armstrong, Jr.
Accountant

APPROVED
BOARD OF EXAMINERS

I certify that approval and authorization was made by Veteran's Welfare Commission, that funds are available for the proposed expenditure, and that the expenditure, if made, will be paid from the regularly appropriated funds of this Commission and will not cause this Commission's expenditures to exceed its appropriation and will not result in any request for additional funds from the legislative assembly for the biennium involved.

Harry E. Sawyer
Harry E. Sawyer
Director

Tim Baker

James H. Anderson

Frank Murray

Date: JUL 10 1964

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

has examined the application of

[Signature]
for the position of

APPROVED
BOARD OF EXAMINERS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

and the results of the examination are as follows:

[Signature]

Helena, Montana
February 5, 1965

A meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in Helena at the State Office, February 5, 1965.

The Commission attended a hearing before the Sub-appropriations Committee of the Legislature together with the Director and the accountant to discuss the Budget presented by the Veterans Welfare Commission.

Thereafter the regular meeting was held and called to order at 1 PM by Russell Lindborg, Chairman:

Present were:

Russell Lindborg, Chairman
Walter Barnard, Member
Kenneth Leslie, Member

Harry Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Asst. Secretary

Charles Lelek was unable to be present due to weather conditions preventing him from leaving Lewistown.

The Chairman appointed Kenneth Leslie as acting secretary.

Minutes of the meeting of July 24, 1964, were read and approved.

Walter Barnard moved that Claims 42 thru 369 be approved, motion was seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the action of the Director in hiring the following employees be approved, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried:

Marie L. Baune, Stenographer, Great Falls, August 24, 1964, at a salary of \$235.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Ione K. Turck, resigned:

Mrs. Karen Belling, Stenographer, Bozeman, September 24, 1964, at salary of \$235.00 per month, replacing Carolyn Wink, deceased:

Walter Barnard moved that the following increases given personnel by the Director be approved, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried:

Hermann J. Bauer, Service Officer, Great Falls, from \$425.00 to \$450.00 effective October 1, 1964:

Mrs. Marie Hinman, clerk, Helena, part-time, \$125.00 to \$137.00, effective October 1, 1964:

Harvey Milton, Service Officer, Miles City, \$375.00 to \$400.00, effective October 1, 1964:

Mrs. Barbara Petroff, Stenographer, Missoula, \$265.00 to \$285.00, effective October 1, 1964:

Mrs. Arlene Soderstrom, Stenographer, Kalispell, \$265.00 to \$285.00 effective October 1, 1964:

David Armstrong, Jr. Service-officer & Accountant, Helena, \$425.00 to \$450.00 effective December 1, 1964.

Kenneth Leslie moved that the Director be authorized to attend the National Rehabilitation meeting of the American Legion in Washington, D. C. March 1 thru 5, 1965. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

Walter Barnard moved the Commission send an expression of sympathy to the family of Norman Hazelwood, conveying the Commission's sorrow at the loss of its member. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Kenneth H. Leslie
Acting Secretary

Russell Lindberg
Chairman

Helena, Montana
April 28, 1965

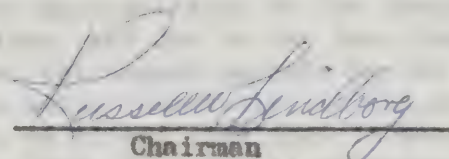
To the Family of Norman Hazelwood:

The members of the Veterans Welfare Commission sorrowfully regret the passing of Norman Hazelwood. He was a valued member of the Commission with his intense interest in Montana veterans, their widows and orphans.

His faithfulness in attending meetings, until prevented by illness, was deeply appreciated. It was not an easy decision to accept an appointment to a Commission whose meetings were held over four hundred miles from his home. This meant a sacrifice in time and comfort to travel from Wibaux to Helena and return. His sense of duty and obligation to the veterans and their problems was so personal that he never hesitated to make the trips.

He was not one to find fault but rather decided the right and proper stand to take and never deviated. He would not compromise with half way measures, and when the Commission was under political pressure to compromise he took his stand with the other members. There was never a question as to where he stood.

Norman Hazelwood has gone, but the memory of his membership on the Veterans Welfare Commission of Montana will long be remembered.


Chairman

Helena, Montana
May 3, 1965

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held April 29, 1965, at the State Office, Helena, Montana.

The meeting was opened at 2 PM by Chairman Russell Lindborg, and present were:

Charles Lelek	Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Leslie	Acting Secretary
Walter Barnard	Member
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
Ethel S. Trenary	Asst. Secretary

Minutes of the meeting of February 5, 1965, were read and approved as read.

Walter Barnard moved that Claims #370 thru #486, and Relief Checks #14317 thru #14319 be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Charles Lelek moved that the increases to the following employees previously given by the Director be approved, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

Marie Baune, stenographer, Great Falls, from \$235.00 to \$260.00 per month, effective March 1, 1965:

Karen Belling, stenographer, Bozeman, from \$235.00 to \$250.00 per month effective April 1, 1965:

Walter Barnard moved that approval be given to the new employee, Mrs. Patricia Romine, stenographer at Missoula, from March 29, 1965, at a salary of \$225.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Barbara Petroff, resigned March 31, 1965. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Considerable discussion was carried on regarding the necessity of closing an office to keep operations within the Commission's Budget. It was decided that an office should be closed inasmuch as the appropriation of the Commission had been considerably reduced by the Legislature, and due to the fact there is a Bill pending in Congress which would increase the amount payable by the employer under Social Security. After studying the matter carefully, it was decided that the Shelby office should be the one to be closed. And that it would be necessary to close the office prior to July 1, 1965, because all expenses connected thereto and vacations due the service officer and stenographer would have to be paid by June 30th.

Walter Barnard moved that because of reduction in the Commission's appropriation for the coming biennium, the Shelby office be closed before July 1, 1965, and that itinerant service be rendered by Great Falls and Wolf Point as previously done when that office had been closed. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the Director notify all news media concerning the closing of the office, and the Department Commanders of the Veterans organizations, immediately. Motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

A matter then came up for discussion which entailed an added \$12,000 to the appropriation of the Board of Examiners for the express purpose of, "paying for contracted services to veterans, their widows and orphans." This was to be further discussed.

Walter Barnard showed the Commission a letter written the service officer in Butte relative to the admission of a veteran to the Montana Veterans Home by Commandant Bjorgum, which was very uncomplimentary to the veteran and the city of Butte. The Commission took exception to this type of letter, and Walter Barnard was requested to send a copy of that letter to the Governor for his information, furnishing a copy to the Commission.

It was decided that the Commission would hold another meeting on May 28th, Friday, 1965.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Kenneth A. Leslie
Acting Secretary

Russell Lindborg
Chairman

Helena, Montana
June 1, 1965

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held at the State Office in the Horsky Block, Helena, Montana, May 28, 1965.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Russell Lindborg, and the following were present:

Russell Lindborg, Chairman
Charles Lelek, Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Leslie, Acting Secretary
Walter Barnard, Member
William Hardie, New member

Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Asst. Secretary

Minutes of the Meeting of May 3, 1965, were read and approved.

Walter Barnard moved that Claims No. 487 thru 541 be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

The Commission requested the Director to talk with Mr. Harmon of the Board of Institutions regarding the prospective charge of veterans at the Montana Soldiers Home, and then report back to the Commission.

Walter Barnard reported that he was contacted by Mrs. Comer concerning the letter from Mr. Bjorgum, and that she requested a photostatic copy of it. Mr. Barnard stated he had not as yet been advised of what action was taken by the Board of Institutions.

A "Thank you" Card was read from Mrs. Aline Hazelwood Toulouse, sister of Norman Hazelwood, for the Resolution the Commission sent the family.

There being no further old business, reorganization of the Commission followed.

The Chairman called for nominations for Chairman. Walter Barnard moved that Charles Lelek be nominated as Chairman, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the secretary instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Charles Lelek as Chairman.

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. William Hardie moved that Walter Barnard be nominated as Vice-Chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and the Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Walter Barnard as Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman called for nominations for Secretary. Walter Barnard moved that Kenneth Leslie be nominated for Secretary, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and the Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Kenneth Leslie as Secretary.

The new officers for the ensuing year are Charles Lelek, Chairman: Walter Barnard, Vice-Chairman: Kenneth Leslie, Secretary.

The official letter from the Governor appointing William C. Hardie to the Commission, replacing Norman Hazelwood, deceased, was read and placed on file.

The official letter reappointing Kenneth Leslie to the Commission was read and placed on file. Both new members have properly filed their Oath of Office with the Secretary of State.

The Commission welcomed William Hardie back as a member, and expressed appreciation for the reappointment of Kenneth Leslie.

Walter Barnard moved that the Director's action of hiring Donna Lee Batters, as stenographer in the Bozeman office, effective May 24, 1965, at a salary of \$135.00 per month, replacing Karen Belling, resigned May 21, 1965, be approved. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie, and carried.

A letter was presented from Warren Harlow advising of his resignation as of July 1, 1965. Russell Lindborg moved that the resignation be accepted, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried. Discussion was then held as to the Commission publicly recognizing the long and devoted service of Mr. Harlow to veterans and their dependents, and his loyalty to the Commission.

Charles Lelek moved that the Commission present a Certificate of commendation to Warren Harlow, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried. It was decided that this certificate would be presented by the Commission in person at a luncheon meeting in Missoula the latter part of June. Definite arrangements to be made known at a later date.

Walter Barnard moved that the application of Bill Heikema be accepted and that he be approved as service officer replacing Warren Harlow, as of June 21, 1965, at a salary of \$400.00 per month. Motion seconded by William Hardie and carried.

A discussion was carried on concerning increases in salary in accordance with the Budget provisions.

Walter Barnard moved that the field service officers receive an increase of \$25.00 per month, effective July 1, 1965, and that an increase be granted to the stenographers eligible, in accordance with the Director's approval, and recommendations submitted at the next Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the salaries of the State Office personnel be increased \$25.00 per month effective July 1st, with exception of the part-time clerk whose increase would be \$12.50 per month. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the Director be authorized to attend the National Convention of the State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Seattle, August 16-20, 1965, and the American Legion Convention in Portland, August 20, 1965. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with a tentative date for the next meeting of the latter part of June 1965.

Russell Lindborg
 Acting Secretary

W. Barnard
 VICE ~~Chairman~~ Chairman

Helena, Montana
June 28, 1965

A special meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in Missoula, Montana, June 25, 1965, at the Florence Hotel at a noon luncheon for the purpose of presenting a Plaque to Warren Harlow, retiring service officer of the Commission, for his untiring service to veterans and his work with the Commission over the years.

Walter Barnard, William Hardie and Russell Lindborg, Commissioners were present, as were E. J. Callaghan, past Director of the Veterans Welfare Commission, Harry E. Sawyer, present Director and Mrs. Sawyer, and Ethel Trenary. Veterans representing the various veteran's organizations in Missoula were also present. Testimonials were given as to the service rendered by Mr. Harlow, and all good wishes to follow him on his retirement. Mrs. Harlow was presented with a corsage.

The Commission then went into regular session at 1:30 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Walter Barnard, Vice-Chairman, and present were:

Walter Barnard,	Vice-Chairman
Russell Lindborg,	Member
William Hardie,	Member
Harry Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary	Assistant Secry.

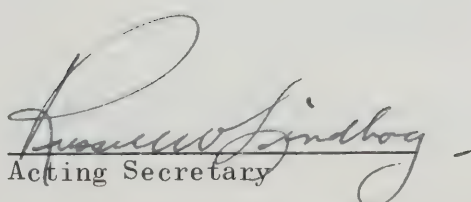
Minutes of the meeting of June 1, 1965, were read and approved.

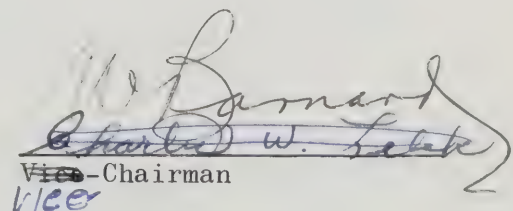
Russell Lindborg moved that Claims #542 thru 590, and Relief Check #14321 be approved, motion seconded by William Hardie and carried.

A letter dated June 7, 1965, from Leonard G. Bashor, Representative of Toole County, relative to the closing of the Shelby Office and the appropriation of the Commission, ^{was discussed.} William Hardie moved that the Director reply to that letter with full approval of the Commission, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

The Director stated that he met with the Governor over the matter of appropriation for the Commission, and the Governor asked him to make up a complete statement as to the expenditures this year of the Commission and any other pertinent information, and then discuss the matter with Mr. Nelson who would in turn advise the Governor. Mr. Sawyer made up this statement and discussed it with Mr. Nelson, and the Director was informed that the Commission was in the right and Mr. Nelson was going to make such a report to the Governor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Acting Secretary


Vice-Chairman

Helena, Montana
October 29, 1965

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State Office in the Horsky Block, Helena, Montana, at 1:30 P. M. October 29, 1966.

The meeting was opened by Charles Lelek, Chairman, and members present were:

Walter Barnard,	Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Leslie,	Secretary
Russell Lindborg,	Member
William Hardie,	Member
Harry E. Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary,	Asst. Secretary.

Minutes of the meeting of June 25, 1965, were read and approved.

Walter Barnard moved that 61 claims #591 thru 702, and new claims from 1-161 from July 1, 1965, be approved. Motion was seconded by Russell Lindborg, and carried.

The Commission accepted the resignations of George Tate, service officer at Bozeman, effective July 16, 1965, and Mrs. Patricia Romine, stenographer at Missoula, effective September 10, 1965.

Russell Lindborg moved that the action of the Director in hiring the following employees be approved, motion seconded by Walter Barnard and passed:

Robert Ruhl, service officer at Bozeman, effective July 26, 1965, at \$400.00 per month:

Janice Olson, stenographer at Missoula, effective September 8, 1965, at a salary of \$225.00 per month.

Russell Lindborg moved that the increase in salary from \$250.00 to \$285.00, effective September 1965, granted Marie Baune, stenographer in Great Falls, be approved. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard, and carried.

The Director reported on his discussion with the Board of Institutions regarding the proposed charges for members at the Montana Soldiers Home. It seemed to be the Board's intention to not charge members having less than \$100.00 income, and to use a graduated charge for those from \$100.00. The Board of Institutions had not made a definite decision at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kenneth Leslie
Kenneth Leslie, Secretary

Charles Lelek
Charles Lelek, Chairman

Helena, Montana
June 7, 1966

A regular and reorganizational meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the Assembly Room of the Montana Power Company in Butte, Montana, June 6, 1966, at 2:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Charles Lelek, Chairman and the following were present:

Walter Barnard	Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Leslie	Secretary
Russell Lindborg	Member
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
Ethel S. Trenary	Asst. Secretary

William Hardie was unable to be present due to previous business commitment.

Minutes of the meeting of October 29, 1965, were read and approved.

Walter Barnard moved that Claims #162 thru 464 be approved, and Relief checks #14322-14347 be approved, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg, and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the increases given by the Director to the following personnel be approved, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg, and carried:

Donna Batters, Stenographer, Bozeman, \$235.00 to \$260.00
effective December 1, 1965:
Janice Neisius, Stenographer, Missoula, \$225.00 to \$250.00
effective April 1, 1966:
Robert Ruhl, Service Officer, Bozeman, \$400.00 to \$425.00
effective February 1, 1966.
William Heikkinen, S.O. Missoula, \$400.00 to \$425.00 from 1-1-66

The Director stated that due to sudden illness, the stenographer at Billings had been placed on a month's sick leave. It could be determined later whether she could return or not. In the meantime temporary stenographic assistance had been granted the Billings office.

A letter from the Governor reappointing William Hardie to the Commission for a term ending May 18, 1971, was read, and appreciation was extended by the Commission for his reappointment.

There being no further old business, the Commission reorganized.

Nominations were called for Chairman, Russell Lindborg moved that Walter Barnard be nominated, no further nominations were made so nominations were closed and the Asst. Secretary instructed to cast unanimous vote for Walter Barnard as Chairman:

Nominations were called for Vice-Chairman, Walter Barnard moved that Kenneth Leslie be nominated, no further nominations were made so nominations were closed and the Asst. Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Kenneth Leslie as Vice-Chairman:

Nominations were called for Secretary, Kenneth Leslie moved that Russell Lindborg be nominated for Secretary, no further nominations were made so nominations were closed and the Asst. Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Russell

Lindborg as Secretary.

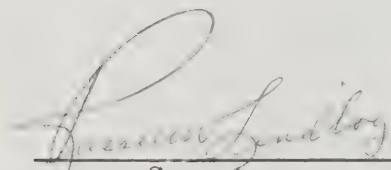
The new officers of the Commission for 1966-67 are: Walter Barnard, Chairman, Kenneth Leslie, Vice-Chairman, and Russell Lindborg, Secretary:


Under new business the matter of increases to personnel was brought before the Commission. After discussion Charles Lelek moved that the increases as outlined by the Director be given the personnel effective July 1, 1966, with several exceptions as to date; motion was seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried. Following are the recommended increases:

State Office:	Ethel S. Trenary	Asst. Secretary	\$475.00 to \$500.00	7-1-66
"	Wilson Hildenbrandt	Clms Officer	\$475.00 to \$500.00	"
"	David Armstrong, Jr.	S.O. & Acct.	\$475.00 to \$500.00	"
"	Marie Hinman,	Clerk($\frac{1}{2}$ time)	\$150.00 to \$162.50	"
Field	J. D. Fellows	S.O. Billings	\$475.00 to \$500.00	"
	Robert Ruhl	" Bozeman	\$425.00 to \$450.00	8-1-66
	William Daley	" Butte	\$475.00 to \$500.00	7-1-66
	Hermann Bauer	" Great Falls	\$475.00 to \$500.00	"
	Albert Miron	" Kalispell	\$475.00 to \$500.00	"
	Harvey Milton	" Miles City	\$425.00 to \$450.00	"
	William Neikkinen	S.O. Missoula	\$425.00 to \$450.00	"
	George Loucks	S.O. Wolf Point.	\$475.00 to \$500.00	"
	Ruth Middleton,	Stno Billings	\$325.00 to \$350.00	"
	Donna Batters,	" Bozeman	\$260.00 to \$285.00	"
	Ruth Boyle,	" Butte	\$325.00 to \$350.00	"
	Marie Baune,	" Great Falls	\$285.00 to \$300.00	"
	Arlene Soderholm	" Kalispell	\$300.00 to \$325.00	"
	Nanice Neisius	" Missoula	\$250.00 to \$270.00	10-1966
	Geraldine King,	" Wolf Point	\$295.00 to \$320.00	7-1-66
	Nancy Ann Leo,	" Miles City	\$310.00 to 325.00	7-1-66

A short discussion was held on the proposed Budget of the Commission which has to be submitted to the Budget Director of the State by August 1, 1966. The Commission set a date of Friday, July 8, 1966, for a meeting in the State Office to discuss and approve the Budget.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

Helena, Montana
July 8, 1966

The Veterans Welfare Commission held a regular meeting in the State Office July 8, 1966. The meeting was opened by Walter Barnard, Chairman, and present were the following:

Russell Lindborg,	Secretary
William Hardie,	Member
Charles Lelek,	Member
Harry Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary,	Asst. Secretary

Kenneth Leslie, Vice-Chairman, was unable to be present due to an accident he had received.

Minutes of the meeting of June 7, 1966, were read and approved.

Charles Lelek moved that Claims #465 thru #494, and #1-19 be approved, and Relief Check #14348 be approved, motion seconded by William Hardie and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that the resignation of Marie Baune, stenographer at Great Falls, effective May 17, 1966, and the hiring of Sherry Povek, replacing her June 13, 1966, at \$235.00 per month, be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

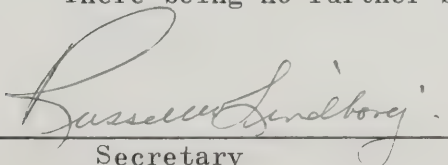
The Director advised that the stenographer in the Billings office had returned to work after two weeks sick leave much improved; that Dewey Fellows who had heart attack was getting along nicely, and that a "thank you" letter had been written to the Montana Power Company, as directed by the Commission, for the use of their auditorium for our June meeting.

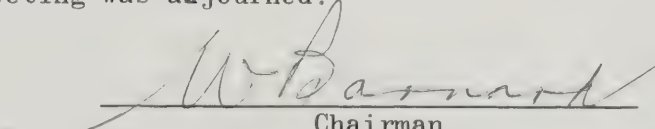
Considerable discussion was carried on concerning the prepared budget to submit to the Legislature. David Armstrong, accountant, was present at this discussion. After thorough study, the Commission approved the Budget for 1967-68 and 1968-69 years. Russell Lindborg moved that the Director submit the Budget as prepared to the Budget Director with the approval of the Commission, motion seconded by William Hardie and carried.

The Director requested authority to attend the National Convention of the State Directors of Veterans Affairs at New Orleans, Louisiana, and the National Convention of the American Legion at Washington, D. C. Russell Lindborg moved that such authorization be granted, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

The Commission approved the request of the Director to call in the service officers for an orientation program as to the changes in benefits granted veterans and their dependents, and it was suggested that the Commission meet at sometime with the service officers during this program.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

Helena, Montana
October 6, 1966

A meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held October 4, 1966, at the Pioneers & Memorial Building, Helena, Montana, for the purpose of meeting with the service officers of the Commission during a conference held for the purpose of discussing new laws and regulations as concerns veterans and their dependents.

The meeting was opened at 1 PM by Walter Barnard, Chairman, and present were the following:

Kenneth Leslie	Vice-Chairman
Russell Lindborg	Secretary
William Hardie	Member
Charles Lelek	Member
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
Ethel S. Trenary	Asst. Secy.

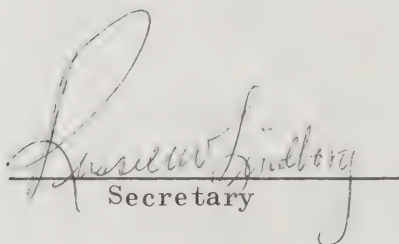
The Minutes of the meeting of July 8, 1966, were read and approved.

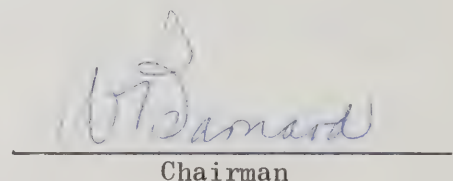
Russell Lindborg moved that Claims No. 20 thru 135 be approved, and Relief checks No. 14349 thru 14354 be approved. Motion was seconded by Kenneth Leslie, and carried.

William Hardie moved that the increases in salary granted Robert Ruhl, service officer at Bozeman, from \$425.00 to \$450.00, effective August 1, 1966, and Janice Neisius, stenographer at Missoula, from \$250.00 to \$275.00, effective October 1, 1966, be approved. Motion was seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

The Director gave a resume of his attendance at the American Legion Convention and his attendance on the Screening Committee there.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned, at which time the Commissioners attended the Service Officers Conference.


Secretary


Chairman

Helena, Montana
~~November~~ Jan 13, 1967

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State Office, Helena, Montana, January 11, 1967, at 1 P.M. The meeting was opened by Walter Barnard, Chairman, and the following were present:

Kenneth Leslie	Vice-Chairman
Russell Lindborg,	Secretary
William Hardie,	Member
Charles Lelek,	Member
Harry E. Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary,	Asst. Secy.

Minutes of the meeting of October 6, 1966, were read and approved.

Charles Lelek moved that Claims #136 thru #274, and Relief checks #14355 thru #14360 be approved, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie, and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that the hiring of the following new employees be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried:

Mrs. Mary Whitmore, a stenographer in Bozeman, effective October 25, 1966, at a salary of \$235.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Donna Batters resigned November 1, 1966:

Mrs. Montana June Langager, stenographer at Wolf Point, effective November 1, 1966, at a salary of \$250.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Geraldine Lippert, resigned November 1, 1966:

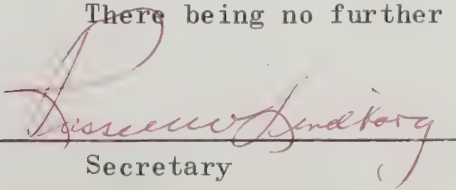
Miss Mary Carranco, stenographer at Miles City, effective December 1, 1966, at a salary of \$235.00, replacing Miss Nancy Ann Leo resigned December 7, 1966:

Mrs. Mary Ann Beatty, stenographer at Great Falls, effective December 27, 1966, at a rate of \$260.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Sherry Heppner, resigned December 31, 1966:

The Director read an invitation from the VFW for his attendance at their Mid-Winter Meeting of the Council of Administration in Helena. Kenneth Leslie moved that the Director attend this meeting, motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried.

The matter of bringing the services rendered veterans and their dependents by this Commission to the general public and the veterans was discussed at some length. It was finally determined that some sort of a pamphlet setting forth these services should be worked up and distributed. Charles Lelek moved that Walter Barnard with the assistance of Owen Grinde of Butte, work out a Brochure for publicity purposes, and submit the proofs to the Commission for approval and later printing. Motion seconded by Russell Lindborg, and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


 Secretary


 Chairman

Helena, Montana, April 27, 1967

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State Office of the Commission in Helena, April 26, 1967.

The meeting was opened by Russell Lindborg, Secretary, and present were the following:

Russell Lindborg, Secretary
William Hardie, Member
Charles Lelek, Member
Walter Barnard, Chairman

Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Asst. Secretary

Minutes of the meeting of January 13, 1967, were read and approved.

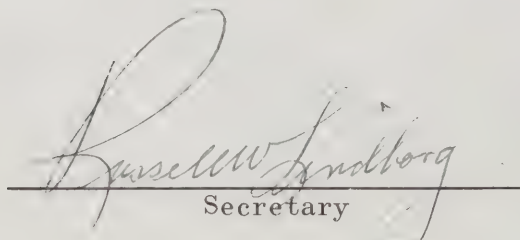
Russell Lindborg moved that Claims No. 275 thru 416 be approved, and Relief Checks No. 14361 thru 14363 be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

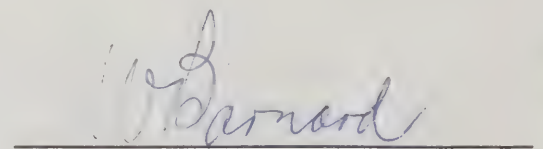
Russell Lindborg moved that permission be granted to the Director to attend the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Commission in Seattle, Washington, May 6, 1967, as requested by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Rehabilitation Commission. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Discussion was carried on concerning the printing and distributing of a Brochure that had been worked up outlining the services of this Commission to veterans and their dependents. Charles Lelek moved that the Commission cause to be printed 10,000 Brochures to include the names of the Commissioners, with reserved space to print the name of the service officer, and that these be mailed out to each Representative and each Senator, and a supply sent to each service officer to pass out to his contacts. Motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

Discussion was had concerning the 1968-1969 Budget, and it was decided by the Commission to postpone consideration of items until the reorganization of the Commission which would be made after the reappointment or appointment of a Commissioner.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, with a meeting date tentatively set for May 24, 1967 as a reorganizational meeting.


Secretary


Chairman

May 31, 1967
Helena, Montana

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State office, Horsky Block, Helena, Montana, at 1 P.M.

The meeting was opened by Walter Barnard, Chairman, and the following were present:

Russell Lindborg, Secretary
William Hardie, Member

Harry Sawyer, Director
Ethel Trenary, Asst. Secretary

Due to the press of business at this time Kenneth Leslie and Charles Lelek were unable to be present.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 26, 1967, were read and approved.

Russell Lindborg moved that Claims No. 417 thru 462, and Relief Check No. 14365, be approved; Motion was seconded by William Hardie and carried.

William Hardie moved that the increases given the following employees be approved, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg, and carried:

June Langager, stenographer, Wolf Point, from \$250.00 to \$275.00, effective May 1, 1967:

Mary Whitmore, stenographer, Bozeman, from \$235.00 to \$260.00, effective May 1, 1967:

The Commission had recently caused a compilation of benefits and services rendered veterans thru its offices in the state and discussion was carried on as to the delay in these Brochures being distributed. It was learned that the delay was in the printing and due to a bottle neck in the State Purchasing Department. The printing had to be let on contract and was being printed in Bozeman. It was hoped it would be ready for distribution very shortly.

There being no further old business, the meeting adjourned for reorganization of the Commission on reappointment of a Commissioner.

Russell Lindborg was reappointed to the Commission for another five years and he was welcomed back.

Nominations were called for Chairman. Russell Lindborg moved that Kenneth Leslie be nominated as Chairman; there being no further nominations, nominations were closed;

Nominations were called for Vice-President. ^{Russell Lindborg} William Hardie moved that ^{William Hardie} Russell Lindborg be nominated, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Nominations were called for Secretary. William Hardie moved that Charles Lelek be nominated, there being no further nominations, nominations were closed. The Secretary was ordered to cast a unanimous ballot for Kenneth Leslie as Chairman, William Hardie as Vice-President, and Charles Lelek as Secretary.

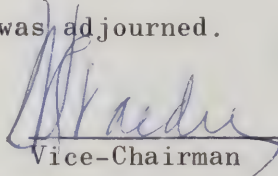
The meeting reopened on call of William Hardie Vice-Chairman, due to the absence of the Chairman. All previously mentioned were present.

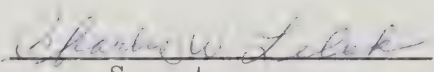
A lengthy discussion followed concerning the Budget and the provisions for increases in salaries. The cost of travel was not increased, but proper adjustment will be made when needed. The Budget adopted and approved by the Legislature provided for a 3% increase; figures were also presented at the rate of 3% plus \$5.00, worked up by the Director and the accountant. ~~Walter Barnard~~ moved that the increases as presented by the Director, 3% plus \$5.00, be approved for salaries of effective July 1, 1967. employees/ Motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that the salary of the Director be increased to \$8500.00 beginning July 1, 1967. Walter Barnard Seconded the motion, motion carried.

The Director requested permission of the Commission to attend the meeting of the State Directors of Veterans Affairs, August 13 to 16, 1967, if later deemed advisable. He also requested permission to attend the National American Legion Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, August 25, 1967 to September 2, 1967. Russell Lindborg moved that permission be granted for such attendance. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


Vice-Chairman


Secretary

Helena, Montana
September 22, 1967

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the office of the Commission in Billings, Montana, September 20, 1967.

The meeting was opened by William Hardie, Vice-Chairman, and the following were present:

Charles Lelek, Secretary
Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Asst. Secretary

Russell Lindborg was unable to be present, as were Kenneth Leslie and Walter Barnard.

The Minutes of the Meeting of May 31st were read and approved as corrected, subject to final approval by a quorum of the Commission. The following business was conducted to be approved by a quorum of the Commission at a later meeting:

Charles Lelek moved that Claims #463 thru 522 to July 1, 1967, and Claims #1 thru #109 from July 1st, 1967, to date, be approved, and Relief Checks #14366 thru #14368 to July 1, 1967, and #14369 to 14373 from July 1st, 1967, be approved. William Hardie seconded the motion and carried.


Charles Lelek moved that the increase in salary for Mary Carranco, stenographer at Miles City, from \$235.00 to \$260.00 per month be approved effective June 1, 1967. Motion seconded by William Hardie and carried.

Charles Lelek moved that approval be given for the hiring of Linda Kukhola stenographer at Great Falls, June 27, 1967, at \$250.00 per month, replacing Mary Ann Beatty, resigned June 30, 1967. Motion seconded by William Hardie and carried.

William Hardie moved that approval be given for the hiring of Janice E. Turner, stenographer at Great Falls, September 11, 1967, at \$260.00 per month, replacing Linda Kukhola, resigned September 15, 1967. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary


Vice-Chairman

Helena, Montana
February 21, 1968

A regular meeting of the Montana Veterans Welfare Commission was held February 21, 1968, in the State Office, Horsky Block, Helena, Montana.

The meeting was opened at 2:15 P.M. with Kenneth Leslie, Chairman presiding.

Members present were:

Charles Lelek, Secretary
Russell Lindborg Member
Walter Barnard, Member

Harry Sawyer, Director

Minutes of the meeting of September 20, 1967, were read and approved.

Walter Barnard moved that Claims #110-306 be approved, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg.

Walter Barnard moved that Relief checks #14374-14381 be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.


Russell Lindborg moved that the action of the Director in hiring Judith Sprandel, stenographer in the Miles City office, at \$250.00 per month effective October 2, 1967, replacing Mary Carranco resigned September 29, 1967, be approved. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

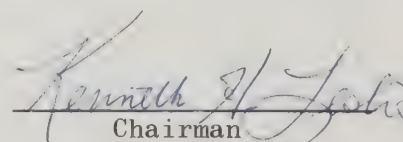
Discussion was carried on concerning the proposed Budget.

Suggestion was made that the members of the Veterans Welfare Commission be placed on a list to receive copies of the American Legion Rehabilitation Bulletin.

The Commission approved the Director's trip to the National Rehabilitation Conference. Lindborg moved that authorization be given the Director for attendance, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

Helena, Montana
May 27, 1968

The Veterans Welfare Commission held its regular meeting on May 24, 1968, in the state office in the Horsky Block, Helena, Montana.

The meeting was called to order at 11 AM by Chairman Kenneth Leslie. Present were the following:

William Hardie	Vice-Chairman
Charles Lelek	Secretary
Russell Lindborg	Member
Walter Barnard	Member
Harry Sawyer	Director
Ethel Trenary	Asst. Secretary

Minutes of the meeting of February 21, 1968, were read and approved.

Russell Lindborg moved that Claims #307-435; Journal Vouchers, 1-3 (Telephone) and Relief checks #14382 and 14383 be approved, motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

Charles Lelek moved that the hiring of Mrs. Sally L. Dolliver, stenographer in the Bozeman office, at \$235.00 per month, effective February 28, 1968, replacing Mrs. Mary M. Whitmore resigned February 23, 1968, be approved. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard, and carried.

Charles Lelek moved that the hiring of Mrs. Marjory V. Summerhays, stenographer in the Great Falls office, at \$260.00 per month, effective February 26, 1968, replacing Mrs. Janice E. Schuyler, resigned February 29, 1968, be approved. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that the increase in salary for Judith F. Sprandel, stenographer in the Miles City office from \$250.00 to \$275.00 per month, effective April 1968, be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried.

There being no further old business, the meeting was adjourned for reorganization of the Commission

The meeting was reopened with Russell Lindborg as acting Chairman. Nominations were called for Chairman. Walter Barnard moved that William Hardie be nominated as chairman. No further nominations being made, nominations were closed.

Walter Barnard moved that Russell Lindborg be nominated as Vice-Chairman, no further nominations being made, nominations were closed.

Russell Lindborg moved that Walter Barnard be nominated for secretary, no further nominations being made, nominations were closed.

Charles Lelek moved that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers for 1968-1969, motion seconded and carried:

William Hardie, Chairman
Russell Lindborg, Vice-Chairman
Walter Barnard, Secretary

The new Chairman assuming the chair called for new business. A discussion was

carried on concerning the Budget, and it was decided that action would be delayed until the Budget is prepared and ready for discussion and approval, which would be around the latter part of July at which time a Commission meeting would be called.

Russell Lindborg moved that the Commission have Friday meetings, and that the hour be 11 A.M. Motion seconded and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

W. H. Barnard
Secretary

Russell Lindborg
Chairman

Helena, Montana
July 22, 1968

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State Office in Helena, July 19, 1968.

The meeting was called to order by William Hardie, Chairman, at 11 A.M. Present were the following:

Walter Barnard	Secretary
Russell Lindborg	Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Leslie	Member
Charles Lelek	Member
Harry Sawyer	Director
Ethel Trenary	Asst. Secy.
David Armstrong	Accountant

Minutes of the Meeting of May 27, 1968, were read and approved.

Walter Barnard moved that Claims #436 thru 497 to July 1, 1968, and 1 thru 4 from July 1, 1968, be approved, and Relief Checks No. 14384 and 14385, be approved, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried:

Walter Barnard moved that the hiring of the following employees be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried:

Cheryl Ann Lee, stenographer at Missoula, effective May 27, 1968, at a salary of \$240.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Janice Neisius, resigned May 31, 1968:

Mrs. Evelyn Hays, stenographer at Bozeman, effective June 24, 1968, at a salary of \$250.00 per month, replacing Mrs. Sally Dolliver, resigned June 30, 1968:

Ruddy R. Reilly, service officer, Great Falls, effective July 1, 1968, at a salary of \$400.00 per month, replacing Hermann Bauer resigned June 28, 1968:

Walter Barnard moved that the increases in salaries given by the Commission to the personnel and approved by the Board of Examiners, be approved by the Commission, Seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried: (copy of increases attached).

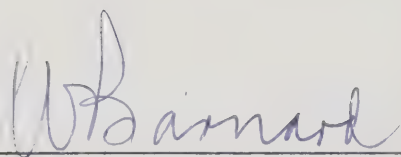
The Director requested approval of the Commission for attendance at the National Convention of the American Legion at New Orleans, September 6 thru 12, 1968, and at the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs convention in New Mexico, September 20th. Kenneth Leslie moved that approval be granted, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

The Commission then discussed the Budget to be presented to the Budget Director for the ensuing Biennium. The accountant explained how it had been worked up, and after discussion and study, Walter Barnard moved that the Commission accept the Budget as written, motion seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

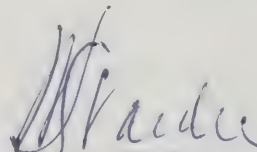
Discussion was carried on concerning the job placement as submitted by the firm employed by the State of Montana to make a survey for comparable salaries. The Commission was very dissatisfied with the placement and the salary study, and Russell Lindborg moved that the matter of grade levels and tenures be brought up again before the firm making the survey, and the Legislature. Motion seconded and carried. The Director was then requested to draft a letter of disapproval

for submission to the Commission members for their consideration and later presentation to the mentioned parties.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. B. Barnard", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. A. H. H. H.", written over a horizontal line.

CHAIRMAN

Helena, Montana
October 25, 1968

The Veterans Welfare Commission held a regular meeting in the state office in Helena, October 25, 1968, at 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman William Hardie, and present were the following:

Russell Lindborg,	Vice-Chairman
Walter Barnard,	Secretary
Kenneth Leslie,	Member
Charles Lelek,	Member

Harry E. Sawyer,	Director
Ethel S. Trenary,	Asst. Secy.

The Minutes of the meeting of July 22, 1968, were read and approved.

Charles Lelek moved that Claims #4 thru 168, and Relief checks #14384 to 14390 be approved. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

J. D. Fellows, service officer of the Commission at Billings, Montana, retired from service of the Commission after 23 years. His resignation was accepted by the Commission as of September 30, 1968, and Edward J. Kilzer of Billings, was approved as his successor at a salary of \$100.00 per week, starting September 16, 1968. It had been previously planned by the Commission that a luncheon would be given in Dewey's honor in Billings. Same was given on September 18, 1968, with attendance by representatives from the various veterans' organizations and friends. Later a plaque commending Dewey on his long and faithful service to the Commission and the veterans was presented to him by the Director in behalf of the Veterans Welfare Commission members.

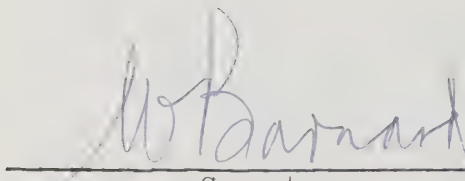
Walter Barnard moved that the increase in salary given Margery Summerhays, stenographer in the Great Falls office from \$260.00 to \$285.00, effective September 1, 1968, be approved. Motion was seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

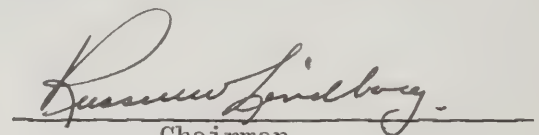
The Director gave a report of his attendance at the meetings of the National Convention of the American Legion in New Orleans, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs at New Mexico.

The matter of a service officer of the Commission accepting an office in a veterans' organization was again brought up for discussion. Charles Lelek moved that a definite

policy be inserted in the Minutes that the Commission insist on following the policy of previous years, that no service officer shall hold any office in any Veterans' organization other than that of service officer or rehabilitation chairman. Motion seconded by Walter Barnard and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

Helena, Montana, January 16, 1969

A meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State Office, Helena, January 16, 1969.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Russell Lindborg, the Chairman being unable to attend for business reasons, and present were the following:

Russell Lindborg,	Vice-Chairman
Walter Barnard,	Secretary
Kenneth Leslie,	Member
Charles Lelek,	Member
Harry E. Sawyer,	Director
Ethel Trenary	Asst. Secy.
Dave Armstrong,	Accountant

Minutes of the meeting of October 25, 1967, were read and approved.

Kenneth Leslie moved that Claims #169-279 be approved, and Relief Checks #14391 and 14392 be approved. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried.

Walter Barnard moved that the following increases to employees be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek, and carried:

William Heikkinen, Service Officer, Missoula, from \$493.00 to \$518.50 effective 1-1-1969:
 Evelyn Hays, Stenographer, Bozeman, from \$250.00 to \$275.00, effective 1-1-69:
 Ruddy R. Reilly, Service Officer, Great Falls, from \$400.00 to \$425.00, effective 1-1-69:
 Robert Ruhl, Service Officer, Bozeman, from \$493.50 to \$518.50, effective 1-1-69:
 Cheryle Lee, Stenographer, Missoula, from ^{235.00} ~~325~~.00 to \$265.00, effective 1-1-69:

The Budget was then discussed. The Commission has asked for \$161,046 for the first year, and the Budget Director had recommended \$164,980; for the second year the Commission had asked for \$167,150, and the Budget Director recommended \$171,714. This didn't appear too bad and it was felt the Commission might squeeze thru. However the accountant mentioned an increase in postage and telephone costs, and a bill to increase the per diem and mileage. The Budget Director had given a small increase in salaries, but a reduction in travel and communications.

The Commission recessed at 2:30 P.M. to meet with the Appropriations Committee at the Legislature to discuss the Budget.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Walter Barnard
 Secretary

Russell Lindborg
 Vice-Chairman

Helena, Montana
April 18, 1969

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held in the State office in Helena, April 18, 1969 at 11 A. M.

The meeting was opened by Walter Barnard, Secretary, in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. These members were present, however, shortly after the meeting was opened.

Present were: William Hardie, Chairman
Russell Lindborg, Vice-Chairman
Walter Barnard, Secretary
Kenneth Leslie, Member
Charles Lelek, Member

Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Exec. Secretary

The Minutes of the meeting of January 16, 1969, were read and approved as corrected.

Charles Lelek moved that Claims #280 thru 396, and Relief Check #14393, be approved, motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

Kenneth Leslie moved that the general increases in salary for commission personnel as presented by the Director be approved effective April 1, 1969, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Charles Lelek moved that the Director be given approval for attendance at the meeting of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs at Boise, Idaho, May 10th and 11th, 1969. Motion seconded by Kenneth Leslie and carried.

Attention was called to the law passed by the 1969 Legislature that all unused appropriations at the end of the fiscal year would be returned to the general fund and no carry-over as formerly followed. However, they may be expended during the second year with permission of the Governor by budget amendment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned, and the members met with the Governor for the purpose of acquainting him with the members on the Commission and commission affairs.

Walter Barnard
Secretary
Paterson

William Hardie
Chairman

Helena, Montana
June 10, 1969

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held June 6, 1969, in the State Office in the Horsky Block at 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by William Hardie, Chairman, and present were the following:

Russell Lindborg, Vice-Chairman
Kenneth Leslie, Member
Charles Lelek, Member
Leslie Eskildsen, Member

Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Ethel S. Trenary, Exec.Secy.

Leslie Eskildsen, new member, recently appointed by Governor Anderson for a five-year term, replacing Walter Barnard, was welcomed to the Commission.

In the absence of Walter Barnard, Charles Lelek was appointed temporary Chairman.

Minutes of the meeting of April 18, 1969, were read and approved.

Russell Lindborg moved that Claims #397-473, and Relief check #14394, be approved, motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Russell Lindborg moved that approval be given for the hiring of Roxie Ann Krause as stenographer in Great Falls, at \$260.00 per month, effective May 26, 1969, replacing Mrs. Margery Summerhays, stenographer in Great Falls resigned May 26, 1969. Motion seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

There being no further old business, the commission dismissed to reorganize.

Nominations were called for Chairman, and Charles Lelek moved that Russell Lindborg be nominated for chairman. No further nominations, so nominations were closed.

Nominations were called for Vice-Chairman. Russell Lindborg moved that Charles Lelek be nominated for Vice-Chairman. No further nominations, so nominations were closed.

Nominations were called for Secretary. Russell Lindborg moved that Kenneth Leslie be nominated as Secretary. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A unanimous vote was cast for Russell Lindborg as Chairman, Charles Lelek, as Vice-Chairman, and Kenneth Leslie as Secretary.

The meeting was turned over to the new officers. Kenneth Leslie moved that the Director be granted permission to attend the National Rehabilitation Commission meeting of the American Legion and the National Convention in Atlantic City, Georgia, on August 22nd thru 28, 1969. Motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

The Director informed the Commission that due to legislative action the Commission's Report of activities would be compiled from January to January, rather than from the fiscal year of June 30th to June 30th.

Discussion was then held as to honoring Walter Barnard for his twenty-five years

of service on the Commission and to veterans. It was tentatively decided that October would be most satisfactory inasmuch as the service officers would be here attending a meeting at Fort Harrison at that time and could attend. More information would be forthcoming a little later when plans were more certain.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Kenneth A. Leslie
Secretary

Charles W. Felick
Vice Chairman

Helena, Montana
October 8, 1969

At an invitation by the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison, Montana, the service officers of the Veterans Welfare Commission attended a meeting held for the VA staff regarding assistance to veterans in applying for benefits to which they may be entitled. The Commission approved the invitation to the service officers, and decided to hold a meeting of the Commission in conjunction therewith so they could meet the service officers and have an informal discussion.

The Commission met at Fort Harrison at 1:30 P. M. October 8, 1969. The members attending were Charles Lelek, Vice-Chairman; Kenneth Leslie, Secretary; Leslie Eskildsen, member; William Hardie, member; Harry E. Sawyer, Director, and Ethel S. Trenary, Exec. Secy.

The Commission members were introduced to the service officers, and a short discussion as to activities and so forth followed.

Lloyd Kappan, Director of the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison, was introduced by the Director to the Commission members, and he welcomed them to Fort Harrison. He stated the staff and himself appreciated the work the Commission was doing and their cooperation with VA employees. He promised the VA's cooperation and expressed appreciation of the Commission's authorization for attendance of the service officers at these meetings.

John Horton, Assistant Director was likewise introduced, and expressed his appreciation of the attendance of the service officers and promised his cooperation with the Commission.

The service officers were then excused, and the Commission went into a business meeting with Charles Lelek, Vice-Chairman presiding.

Minutes of the meeting of June 10, 1969, were read and approved as corrected.

Kenneth Leslie moved that the hiring of the following employees, and resignations be approved:

Brenda A. Gjerde, stenographer at Miles City, hired September 4, 1969, at

a salary of \$250.00 per month, replacing Judith Sprandel, resigned September 5, 1969; Marylee Staedler, stenographer, Missoula, hired September 8, 1969, replacing Cheryl Lee resigned September 5, 1969;


The Director advised the Commission that the Legislative Council was to review the activities of the Commission thru an investigation by a Fiscal Analyst. He would make the review by talking with the Director as to what the Commission's operation really was; checking thru the Minutes, checking the Budget and so forth.

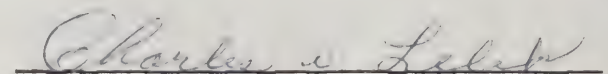
The Director requested permission of the Commission to pay a visit to the VA Hospital at Sheridan, Wyoming, due to the fact there are a considerable number of Montana veterans in that hospital. William Hardie moved that such permission be granted, Leslie Eskildsen seconded the motion, and carried.

The matter of replacement of the Director of the Commission came up and he stated his retirement would be in September 1970. It was finally decided that in January a meeting would be held for further discussion and the service officers would be officially advised of the vacancy so they could make application for the position if desired.

Ethel Trenary, Executive Secretary, then advised that she would be leaving the Commission December 31, 1969, and replacement for her should be considered. Ethel suggested consideration be given to Roxie Ann Krause, the stenographer in the Great Falls office. Such suggestion met with the approval of the Commission, and the Director and Ethel were advised to approach Roxie to determine if she would accept the position.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with the understanding a meeting would be held in January 1970.


Secretary


Vice-Chairman

Helena, Montana
February 23, 1970

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held on February 20, 1970 in the State Office in the Horsky Block at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Russell Lindborg, Chairman and the following were present:

Charles Leleck, Vice Charman
Kenneth Leslie, Secretary
Leslie Eskildsen, Member

Harry E. Sawyer, Director
Roxie Krause, Sec.

Not present was William Hardie, who could not attend for business reasons.

The minutes of the October 8, 1969 meeting were read and approved as read.

Kenneth Leslie moved that claims thru #293 and Relief checks thru #14404 be approved. The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek.

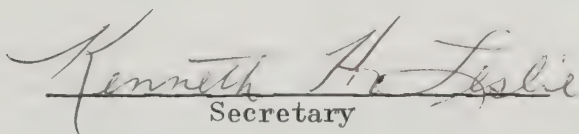
The following employment was approved Janice S. MacDonald replaced Roxie Krause in Great Falls, at \$260.00 per month, effective November 20, 1969, who transferred to Helena on December 1, 1969 at \$360.00 per month effective on December 1, 1969, to replace Ethel S. Trenary, Exec. Secy. who retired on December 31, 1969.

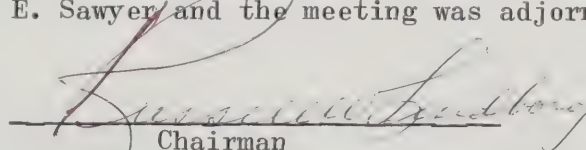
The budget was next discussed by the commission with emphasis on the communications as being particularly overspent. It was suggested that the Director may have to approach the director of the budget. It was finally decided that we would have to continue in other fields under the assumption that we will receive the same amount in the future.

Then followed a discussion regarding hiring a replacement for the Director, Harry E. Sawyer, who plans to retire in September. It was felt by the members of the Commission that they could not successful pick a successor until the article had been released to the news media by the Commission. This was done with a special request that it be in the following weeks newspapers and get statewide coverage.

The Director then brought to the attention of the commission a letter he had sent to Sen. Orin Teague, regarding the expected dental treatment that Viet Nam Era veterans were supposed to be eligible for but weren't getting due to lack of funds. It was decided that a news release submitted by each field office be released in this regard to the newspapers in there areas. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business it was decided another meeting would be held in a month to decide on a replacement for Harry E. Sawyer and the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary


Chairman

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held on April 2, 1970 in the State Office in the Horsky Block at 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Russell Lindborg, Chairman with the following members present:

Charles Lelek,	Vice Chairman
Kenneth Leslie	Secretary
William Hardie	Member
Leslie Eskildsen	Member
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
Roxie Krause	Sec.

The minutes of the February 20, 1970 meeting were read and approved as read.

Kenneth Leslie moved that Claims from #293 to #343, Journal Vouchers from #12 to 13, and Relief checks thru #14404 be approved. The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Hiring of new employees was approved as follows: Mrs. Etta Jaeger was hired April 2, 1970 to replace Brenda A. Gjerde, who resigned as of April 3, 1970 in the Miles City office. Mrs. Jaeger's starting salary is to be \$250.00 per month. The motion was seconded and carried.

Harry Sawyer mentioned the press release regarding the Viet Nam Era veterans dental treatment and the fact that action had been taken by Washington, D. C., by allocating \$95,000.00 more to Fort Harrison for needed dental treatment. Only two papers in the state carried the news item to our knowledge; these were Helena and Miles City.

There was no further unfinished business carried over from the February meeting so applications for replacement of Harry E. Sawyer, Director, were taken under consideration. The following applications had been received: From the Veterans Welfare Commission applicants were David W. Armstrong, William Heikkinen, Ruddy R. Reilly: Applicants from outside the organization were Mr. John D. Blacker, Mr. Lewis Kalberg, Mr. John R. White, and Mr. Frank Weleaver. The applications were all taken under consideration. Mr. Kenneth Leslie made a motion for hiring David W. Armstrong as the new Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Lelek.

A sub-motion was made by Mr. ^{Joe} ~~Leslie~~ Eskildsen to defer a final decision of a replacement until our next regular meeting in June, 1970. The motion was seconded and carried.

The budget analysis was next taken into consideration with mention that we were still overspent in our communications budget. It was designated that Harry E. Sawyer would have to talk to the Controller in this regard as we are already two months overspent and still have that many months to go.

There being no further business a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried.

Russell Lindberg
Vice Chairman

M. A. Acker
Secretary

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held on June 17, 1970 in the State Office in the Horsky Building at 1:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Russell Lindborg, Chairman, with the following members present:

Charles Lelek	Vice Chairman
William Hardie	Member
Leslie Eskildsen	Member
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
Roxie Krause	Sec.

Mr. Vince Caciari was unable to attend due to other business.

The minutes of the April 2, 1970 meeting were read and approved as read.

Mr. William Hardie moved that Claims #433 to #453, Journal Vouchers #14 to #16, and Relief checks from #14405 to #14406 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

The next business taken up was the hiring of new employees which was approved as follows: Mrs. Doris Kveseth was hired June 1, 1970 at \$275.00 per month to replace Mrs. June Langager who resigned as of June 1, 1970 from the Wolf Point office. Mrs. Linda Thares was hired as of June 5, 1970 at \$260.00 per month to replace Miss Janice MacDonald in the Great Falls office.

Unfinished business was than discussed starting with a discussion of the budget analysis for the balance of the year in regards to overspending in communications and transferring the funds from another section of the budget. Dave Armstrong was called into the meeting to report his finding from the Budget Director in regards to transfer of funds. Then Mr. Armstrong presented the preliminary budget.

Mr. Leslie Eskildsen made a motion that the two secretaries at Fort Harrison be placed back in our budget under expanded services with the option that if it does not pass the Director of the Budget the salaries can be returned to the Board of Examiners. The Director would have supervision of the two secretaries. The motion was left pending for consideration of the members until the next meeting.

It was then decided that a letter should be sent on behalf of the Commission to Mr. Kenneth Leslie in appreciation of his service on the commission.

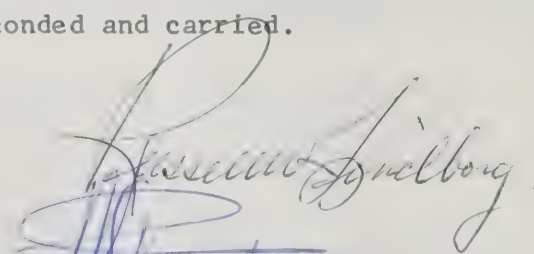
Other applications for the Director were then taken into consideration. The new applications received were from Mr. Hermann Bauer and Mr. Robert Bengtson. These and the other applications were briefed and discussed. Mr. Charles Lelek renewed his motion that Mr. David Armstrong be considered for the position of Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Hardie and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. William Hardie that the new officers for the Veterans Welfare Commission be approved as follows: Mr. Charles Lelek, Chairman; Mr. Leslie Eskildsen, Vice-Chairman; and Mr. William Hardie, Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried.


A motion was made that a July meeting be held, with a post card poll, to find the most convenient date for all of the Commission members.

Mr. Harry E. Sawyer requested permission to attend the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Gearhart, Oregon on August 24th through August 27th. A motion was made by Mr. Russell Lindborg, seconded and carried.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and carried.



Chairman



Secretary

A regular meeting of the Veteran's Welfare Commission was held on July 24, 1970 in the State Office in the Horsky Building at 1:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Charles Lelek, Chairman, with the following members present:

Leslie Eskildsen	Vice Chairman
William Hardie	Secretary
Russell Lindborg	Member
Vince Caciari	Member
Harry E. Sawyer	Director
David W. Armstrong, Jr.	
Roxie Krause	Sec.

The minutes of the June 17, 1970 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made by Russell Lindborg that Claims #454 to #479 and #1-#27, Journal Vouchers #17, and Relief check #14406 be approved. The motion was seconded by Leslie Eskildsen and carried.

Pertinent correspondence was then read including the letter Harry E. Sawyer sent to the Governor amending the Constitution to read "All male employees of the Commission shall have served in the military forces of the United States during World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, or during the Viet Nam Era beginning August 5, 1964, and shall have been honorably discharged therefrom; whenever possible female employees shall also be persons honorably discharged from service during World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, or during the Viet Nam Era beginning August 5, 1964; preference for all appointments shall be given to disabled veterans."

The letter sent by Harry E. Sawyer in behalf of the Commission was read. There was no further pertinent correspondence.

The report from Executive Reorganization was received on 7-7-70 with no actual indication from the report as to which branch of the state government we would be placed under. The report was looked over by the members of the Commission. Mr. Caciari requested that a copy be made for himself so that he could have an opportunity to study the report. Charles Lelek suggested that each of the Commissioners might like to have a copy as it explained the duties of the Commission.

Harry E. Sawyer requested permission of the Commission to go to the NASVDA and American Legion conventions in Oregon. Since the American Legion would pay his expenses to the American Legion convention it was also suggested that David W. Armstrong, Jr. attend the American Legion convention to enable him to meet and get to know the people he would be working with as director. The motion was made by Russell Lindborg, seconded and carried.

Copies of the Commission's annual report for 1969-1970 were passed out to members of the Commission and a narrative summary for the period from July, 1969 to December 1969 would be mailed at a later date.

The budget report was then presented by David W. Armstrong, Jr. with the comment that all figures are in dollars with no cents indicated. The budget

was analyzed by the members.. Dave Armstrong commented on the projected figures in the salaries column of 5% and 8%. This was indicated on the report in separate columns. There had been no directive to use the 8% figure but general concensus of opinion was that the 8% figure should be used rather than the 5%. Money has to be retained here for terminal leave and insurance. The motion was made to use the 8% figure on salaries, was seconded and carried. Leslie Eskildsen commented that he would like the budget to project the salaries for the two girls at Fort Harrison in our budget. After further comment the motion was made by Russell Lindborg that the budget be accepted excluding the salaries for the two stenographers at Fort Harrison on page 101-A-73. The motion was seconded by William Hardie. A vote was taken with Russell Lindborg and William Hardie voting for the budget as amended, and Leslie Eskildsen and Vince Caciari voting against. The deciding vote was cast by Charles Lelek, Chairman, voting for the budget as amended. The members of the Commission agreed to pay the salaries of the two stenographers at Fort Harrison as soon as a decision was received from the Attorney General as to the legality of the Commission doing so.

There being no further business a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried.

Charles A. Lelek
(Chairman)

W. Hardie
(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held on January 19, 1971 in the State Office in the Horsky Building at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Charles Lelek, Chairman, with the following members present:

Leslie Eskildsen	Vice Chairman
William Hardie	Secretary
Russell Lindborg	Member
Vince Caciari	Member
David W. Armstrong, Jr.	Director
Roxie Krause	Sec.

The minutes of the July 24, 1970 meeting were read and approved as read.

Business carried over from the July meeting concerning the narrative summary of the annual report for the period from July to December, 1969 was passed out. The report received from executive reorganization was also passed out to the members of the Commission. The members of the Commission then looked over these reports.

The hiring of new employees was approved by the Commission as follows: Charles Gadach replaced Bill Hildenbrandt as Claims Officer in Helena, at a starting salary of \$500.00 starting 8-25-70; Kent Lindsay replaced David W. Armstrong, Jr., as Service Officer-Accountant in Helena, at a starting salary of \$500.00, starting 10-19-70; and Joe Henderson replaced Ed J. Kilzer in Billings, at a starting salary of \$475.00 starting 11-16-70. Russell Lindborg made a motion that the new employees be approved, the motion was seconded by Bill Hardie and carried.

Pertinent correspondence was then presented to the Commission by Dave Armstrong, Jr. A telegram was sent to Senator Mike Mansfield requesting the House version of the veteran's pension bill be passed. The telegram sent, with numerous others, was written into the Congressional Record.

Dave Armstrong, Jr. then passed out a news release that has been sent to the various papers throughout the state regarding the number of claims and initial monetary benefits the Veterans Welfare Commission had assisted veterans and their dependents in obtaining in the past six months.

A letter from the Governor's office requesting curtailment of unnecessary travel was then discussed. This has been complied with by our service officers by their not spending as much time in certain localities. The only other way for us to curtail travel further is by not having the service officers travel and hopefully the service officers would be able to return to their old schedules again in July.

Another directive from the Governor's office pertained to state or public employees lobbying during Legislature. The only time our presence is required is when we are requested to meet with a certain committee at their request.

Dave Armstrong then mentioned he had received notices for the NSAVDA, VFW, and American Legion rehabilitation conferences which would be held in Washington, D.C., due to Legislature still being in session it was decided that Dave Armstrong use his own discretion as to which meetings to attend. This was made in the form of a motion by Russell Lindborg, seconded by Leslie Eskildsen, and carried.

The budget was then presented as it had been amended by the Budget Director's office. The Budget Director's office had eliminated the projection for an office in Havre and had placed the salaries for the two stenographers at Fort Harrison in our budget in contracted services. Further discussion of the two stenographers being in the budget followed, since the minutes of the July, 1970 meeting showed how the Commission stood on the issue it was decided to accept the budget as amended by the Budget Director's office.

Dave Armstrong presented the statement to the Appropriations Subcommittee for the approval of the Commission. We were requesting an additional \$500.00 in communications due to the projected increase in telephone rates and the increase of 2¢ in first class mail. These were the only changes to be requested of the Appropriations Subcommittee.

Russell Lindborg then presented Mr. Bill Lindsay to the Commission and requested that he be allowed to sit in on the Commission meeting as an interested observer. He is assisting the American Legion with the legislation they are interested in and Mr. Lindsay wished to know what stand the Commission wanted to take on certain issues.

A motion was then made that the budget as amended by the Budget Director's office be approved by Leslie Eskildsen. The motion was seconded and carried.

House Bill #3 was then taken under consideration, regarding executive reorganization. Dave Armstrong submitted a written statement to be presented to the subcommittee on January 26, 1971 when the Commission was to meet with them. The amendments made to the reorganization bill were in regards to having the name changed to Board of Veteran's Affairs rather than Welfare and giving the Commission the right to continue to hire its own employees.

Mr. Bill Lindsay then suggested that we might possibly want to recommend being placed under something other than Social and Rehabilitation. The various organizations felt we should be placed under military rather than Soc. & Rehab. and the Legion felt we should be a separate organization of our own. A discussion followed with the Commissioners expressing the feeling that if we were going to have the name changed it should be changed to delete the Welfare as we were not a welfare agency and had never been a welfare agency. The Commission was also of the opinion that we should request being considered under military rather than Social and Rehabilitation.

It was then decided that Leslie Eskildsen, Bill Lindsay and Dave Armstrong get together and draft a statement using the present draft as a basis to work from. The statement was to be made by Charles Lelek, Chairman, in behalf of himself and the Commission and to request that if further questions arose from the subcommittee they should be referred to Dave Armstrong. A copy of the drafted statement is to be sent to each of the Commissioner's for their comment and approval.

Russell Lindborg made a motion that the meeting be adjourned with the understanding the Commission would again meet on Jan. 26, 1970 at 4:00 P.M. in the State Office for the purpose of discussing the Commission's policy on Re-organization. The motion was seconded by Leslie Eskildsen and carried.

Charles W. Lelek
(Chairman)

Russell Lindborg
(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Veterans Welfare Commission was held on May 28, 1971 in the State Office in the Horsky Building at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Charles Lelek, Chairman, with the following members present:

Leslie Eskildsen, vice Chairman
 Russell Lindborg, Member
 Vice Caciari, Member
 John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Director
 Roxie Krause, Secretary

The minutes of the January 19, 1971 meeting were read and approved as read.

The motion was made by Russell Lindborg that Claim #450; Journal Voucher #15; and relief check \$14414 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried..

The hiring of new employees was approved by the Commission as follows: Vickie Lederer was hired 4-28-71 at \$260.00 to replace Linda Brown in Great Falls. Pamela Mirrer was hired 6-1-71 at \$285.00 to replace Evelyn Hayes in Bozeman.

The implications of executive reorganization in regards to the Commission and the service offices was then discussed. Dave Armstrong has been advised that meetings will be called by the individual departments to initiate the changes and we are to continue as before until being notified by directive from the Governor.

There being no further old business, Mr. Robert Durkee of the VFW was introduced by Leslie Eskildsen.

The meeting was turned over for reorganization: Russell Lindborg made the motion for Leslie Eskildsen for Chairman. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made by Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen for Russell Lindborg for Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen for Vince Caciari for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting reconvened after the re-organization with Mr. Eskildsen presiding as chairman.

Mr. Robert Durkee then presented the contracts for the secretaries of the service organizations at Ft. Harrison with the request that they be signed by the members of the Commission so they may be ratified by the Secretary of State. A lengthy discussion followed in regards to the legality of the contracts and as to whether they were binding if the Legislature did not appropriate the funds. The members of the Commission were assured that the contracts were binding only if Legislature did appropriate the funds. A motion was made that the contracts for the two secretaries be ratified by Joe Eskildsen. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari with John Grauman and Charles Lelek voting for and Russell Lindborg voting against ratification. Mr. Durkee then took the contracts for the Secretary of States signature with the understanding that he would return them to Dave Armstrong as soon as they were signed.

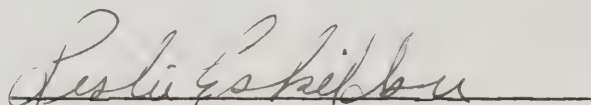
The fall conventions were then discussed with Dave Armstrong requesting that he be allowed to go to the Veterans Administration Insurance Training Conference in St. Paul in lieu of the other conventions. The Insurance Conference would be held on October 6th and 7th. The motion was made by Russell Lindborg that Dave Armstrong be given permission to go to the Insurance Conference. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

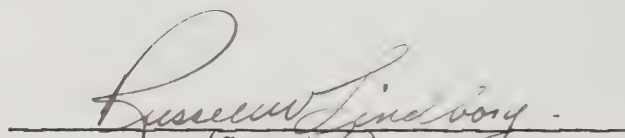
A motion was made by John Grauman that upon Dave Armstrong's return efforts be made for a meeting of the Commission and the Service Officer for training purposes at the discretion of the Chairman and Dave Armstrong. The motion was seconded and carried.

The budget for the biennium was then distributed and discussed. There were no questions on the budget. Dave Armstrong mentioned that we had not received the additional \$500.00 requested for communications.

If an emergency meeting was necessary due to the budget and Legislature it was decided that it could be on Saturday.

There being no further business a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on December 10, 1971 at 3:00 p.m. in the Veterans & Pioneers Memorial Bldg. in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Chairman, with the following members present:

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman
 Russell Lindborg, Secretary
 Charles Lelek, Member
 John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
 Roxie Krause, Secretary

The minutes of the May 28, 1971 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made that Claim #212, Journal Voucher #8, and Relief Check #14417 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the new employees be approved as follows: Louise Mickelson to replace Pamela Mirror in Bozeman at \$291.00 per mo., Jean Johnston to replace Doris Kveseth in Wolf Point at \$277.00, Joan Huestis to replace Vicki Lederer in Gt. Falls at \$277.00, Earlene Jergens to replace Joan Huestis in Gt. Falls at \$277.00. The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

The merit system was then discussed by the Board. A motion was made by Russell Lindborg that the following resolution be passed: "The Board of Veterans Affairs at its meeting in Helena, Montana on December 10, 1971 voted to request that its personnel in the Veterans Affairs Division of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services be included under the Merit System in keeping with the other personnel of the department." The motion was seconded and carried.

A discussion regarding how the Board would receive compensation for its expenses was then brought up. A motion was made by John Grauman that the Board members be re-imbursed at the rate of \$25.00 per day plus actual and necessary expenses. The motion was seconded by Lindborg and carried.

The Board then passed the following draft to be submitted to the Constitutional Convention: 'The State of Montana Board of Veterans Affairs respectfully requests that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention consider the following for inclusion in the new constitution:

"In grateful appreciation of the sacrifices and contributions made by the men and women of Montana who served in the Armed Forces, and recognizing that these veterans have fulfilled one of the greatest obligations of citizenship, the people of Montana do herein declare that these Montana servicemen and women shall be given special considerations as determined by the Legislative Assembly providing some measure of recompense for lost economic opportunity and disruption of careers and homelife."

The motion was made by John Grauman to pass the foregoing resolution, it was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

A motion was made that David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator be allowed to attend the midwinter Rehab Conference of either the VFW or the American Legion by Russell Lindborg, seconded by John Grauman and carried.

The leave policy of the Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation services was then discussed and it was decided that the same policy be adopted by the Veterans Affairs Division. The motion was seconded and carried.

The budget was then passed out for discussion by the Board. It was brought to the Board's attention that travel might have to be curtailed during May & June.

The members of the Board thought that name tags for all employees would be a good idea.

There being no further business a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and carried.

Leola Spickard
(Chairman)

Rosemary Spickard
(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on May 19, 1972 at 10:00 A.M. in the State Office in the Horsky Bldg., Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Chairman, with the following members present:

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman,
Russell Lindborg, Secretary
Charles Lelek, Member
John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie Krause, Sec.

The minutes of the November 10, 1971 meeting were read and approved as read.

The Board was advised that the Attorney General's office had ruled that the Veterans Affairs Division is not eligible for the Merit System as it is not receiving federal funds.

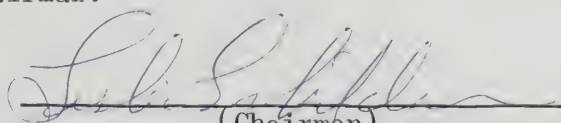
A motion was made by John Grauman that Claims thru #396, Journal Vouchers #13, and Relief Check #14418 be approved. The motion was seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.


The Board was advised that the SRS Department had allowed the Veterans Affairs Division the first two positions under emergency employment. An extra man was hired to service the hi-line and Gt. Falls area and the other was hired to replace Kent Lindsay. John Grauman made a motion that new employees be approved as follows: Susan Shay to replace Ruth Mittlestadt in Billings at \$300.00 per month; Gary Berg as an additional service officer for Gt. Falls and the hi-line at \$500.00 per month; Dale Krenik to replace Kent Lindsay in Helena as service officer-acct. at \$500.00 per month. The motion was seconded and carried.

Changes in the proposed salaries for July, 1972 was submitted. The proposed changes were as follows: The service officer in Great Falls to \$6500.00 per year; the steno-clerks in Great Falls, Miles City and Wolf Point to \$3700.00 per year and Roxie Krause to \$5600.00 per year. The motion was made that these salary increases be made effective June 1972 by John Grauman, seconded by Russell Lindborg and carried.

The Board was then advised that the Department has requested that the new budget for 1973-1974 be prepared on the scale with their employees to bring our employees in this division in line with the rest of the department. The Board passed a motion that the department salary table be utilized in the projected budget. The motion was made by Charles Lelek, seconded by John Grauman and carried.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in July at the discretion of Dave Armstrong and Joe Eskildsen, Chairman.


(Chairman)


(secretary) - acting

The minutes should be amended to read Changes in proposed salaries for all employees with line increases for the following:

~~The minutes of the May 19th meeting be amended in regards to salaries
to read that employees would receive~~

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on July 7, 1972 in the Horsky Building in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Chairman with the following members present:

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman
Charles Lelek, Member
John Grauman, Member
John McGlynn, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie Krause, Sec.

The minutes of the May 19, 1972 meeting were read and approved as amended.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the following claims be approved: Claims thru #463; Journal Vouchers thru #16; and Relief Check thru #14418; The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Mr. Robert Durkee, VFW was then presented to the Board. Mr. Durkee requested that the Veterans Affairs Division participate in PEP, a portion of the EEA. The VAD would have to apply for the federal funds to hire a service officer for the VFW at Ft. Harrison. This program would be funded under EEA for the 1st year. The service officer would be hired by this office then outstationed at Ft. Harrison with the VFW. The legality of this procedure was questioned by Dave Armstrong. After the first year the VFW would be responsible for the salary. At present no other departments in the state are doing this sort of thing. A motion was made by John Grauman that we adopt this program and apply for the Federal money to support it. The motion was seconded by John McGlynn and carried. It was to be generally understood that the service officer would be a veteran.

Old business carried over from the May 19, 1972 was regarding employee participation in service organizations. The following motion was made by Russell Lindborg and tabled. John Grauman made a motion that we adopt the following motion as policy: "The policy of the Board of Veterans Affairs is to encourage all personell to actively support and participate in the various service organizations toward the end of beneficial support to veterans and their families. It is the responsibility of the employee to recognize that at no time shall he (or she) accept responsibilities that will interfere with his (or her) doing their job. Employees shall receive no remuneration for positions with any veterans organizations." The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

The motion was made that the following new employee be approved by John Grauman: Diana J. Nesbit at \$300.00 to replace Earlene Jurgens in Great Falls. The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that Dave Armstrong be allowed to travel to Billings to conduct a service officer school for service officers of the various service organizations by uniting them so they will be able to assist our service officers in filing claims. The motion was seconded and carried. This is to be scheduled for sometime in the next two months.

The budget for 1973-74 biennium was then presented. The basic changes are in salary scale and employee benefits. Travel is increased over our present budget and the additional allowance is projected for the service office in Havre. There are also increases in postage and telephone communications as we have been unable to keep ahead of current rate increases. A motion was made by John Grauman that the budget for contracted services should be increased from \$7000.00 to \$8000.00. The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried. A motion was made by John Grauman that an additional service officer for Billings be budgeted. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further amendments to the budget the motion was made by John jGrauman that the budget be approved. The motion was seconded and carried. The Board will receive copies of the cover page of the budget.

The motion was then made that Dave and the Chairman make arrangements with the Veterans Administration to bring in the service officers again this fall for a training session. The date for this school to be set later this fall.

Dave Armstrong requested permission of the Board to go to the National Convention in Minneapolis in jAugust. The motion was made that he be allowed to go by Vince Caciari, seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Election of officers for the Board was then opened. The nominations for Chairman were opened. John Grauman nominated Vince Caciari to the office of Chairman. There being no futher nominations for this office nominations were closed. The office of Vice Chairman was then opened. John Grauman was nominted to the office of Vice-Chairman. The office of Secretary was then opened. Charles Lelek was nominted to the office of Secretary.

There being no further business a motion was made by John Grauman to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

Vince Caciari
(Chairman)

Charles W. Lelek
(secretary)

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on December 1, 1972 at 1:30 p.m. in the SRS Conference Room, 515 Ewing, Helena, Mt. The meeting was called to order by Vince Caciari, Chairman with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
Charles M. Lelek, Secretary
Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Member
John "Jack" McGlynn, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie Krause, Secretary

The minutes of the July 7, 1972 meeting were read and approved as read.

A report of the Minneapolis conference was given by David W. Armstrong, Jr. It was noted at the conference that drug involved cases were locked files to any other than Federal government employees. State agencies could obtain these files only with special written permission by the veteran. The group at the conference was small but exceptionally good.

The 1973-74 budget was then distributed to the Board members. Dave Armstrong noted that this was approximately what we had requested. As usual the Havre office & staff had been deleted. Also the Billings service officer -the extra one- was deleted. Contracted services was changed to allow only a 5% increase each year. The extra Billings service officer had been cut due to trying to bring the present employees salaries up to the standard of the rest of the Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services. The only way to get the additional service officer in Billings would be to go through the legislators in that area and have them propose one during legislature. And to request the additional funds for one. This is fairly close the the budget we had projected.

The PEP portion of the EEA program was then brought up. As EEA was frozen just after the proposal to attempt to obtain these funds the program was dropped.

A motion was made by Charles Lelek that Debra J. Nelson be hired to replace Jean Johnston in Wolf Point at \$300.00 per month. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John McGlynn that Claims from #1 to 197; Journal Voucher 16, Relief Checks #14419 & 14420 be approved. This was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

Dave Armstrong requested permission to attend the NASVDA and VFW conferences in Washington, D. C. in March, 1973 if they were scheduled together. The motion was made by Joe Eskildsen that Dave be allowed to go, seconded by John Grauman and carried.

It was hoped that NASVDA would have current reports on legislation wherein the Federal government would partially fund state agencies for doing contact work and assisting in filing claims.

A 40 bed nursing care unit is projected for Fort Harrison. At the present time some emergency patients are being turned away because the beds are being used by patients who still need nursing care but none is available in their area.

John McGlynn was appointed to be of assistance in watching legislation effecting this agency during legislature with assistance from Joe Eskildsen and in conjunction with Dave Armstrong.

A meeting of the Board may be necessary during Legislature. This meeting would be called at the discretion of Vince Caciari, Chairman and Dave Armstrong.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

Vince Caciari
(Chairman)

Charles W. Lick
(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Friday, February 23, 1973 at 1:00 p.m. in the State Office in the Horsky Bldg., Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Vince Caciari, with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
Charles Lelek, Secretary
Joe Eskildson, Member
John McGlynn, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie K. Thomas, Secretary

The minutes of the December 1, 1972 meeting were read and approved as read.

The application for Tom Hamilton to replace Charles Gadach as Claims Officer in Helena. Mr. Hamilton was hired at \$550.00 per month. A motion was made by John Grauman that his application be approved. The motion was seconded by Charles Lelek and carried.

A motion was made by Charles Lelek that the following claims be approved: Claims #198 to #275; Journal Voucher 16, this has changed to No Warrant Transfers #630, 632, 633, 650 and 651; Relief check #14420. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildson and carried.

It was reported by Dave Armstrong that the 40 bed nursing unit for Fort Harrison has been increased to 50 beds by the Federal government. This is proposed on the five year plan. There was no disagreement by Washington, D. C. as to the necessity of a nursing care unit. The VA is tentatively scheduling a regional set up to ten areas rather than the current allocation. A number of projects have been approved, some are completed and work is just beginning on others. Both Montana hospitals are running over capacity and their staff is short two doctors in each.

Current legislation before the State Legislature was then discussed. The Viet Nam Bonus bills which have no funding and they will, therefore, probably not be passed. Disabled veterans license plates under the current law reads automobile and therefore veterans with pick ups are in some areas unable to receive this benefit. An attempt is being made to amend this to read non commercial motor vehicle.

The Board would like another service officers school scheduled for this fall. The Board then discussed instances where some of the service officers had been accused of becoming personally involved in a personality conflict with someone in the various service organizations. The service officers should remember that they represent any veteran regardless of what organization they belong to and should attempt to not get involved in personality conflicts. Specific instances were discussed and it was decided that when any Board member was made aware of this he should contact Dave Armstrong so further investigations could be carried out.

Dave Armstrong reported that he would be leaving for the National Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference and VFW Conference in Washington, D. C. and hoped that he would find out what the current trends in veterans legislation would be especially in the area of federal funding for state agencies working in the capacity of the Veterans Affairs Division.

The current budget was discussed and it was noted that possibly travel would have to be curtailed in May and/or June. We are presently only 1% overspent but

our heavier months of travel are coming up with district meetings being attended. Also, if legislation is passed to increase mileage and per diem travel will be cut as it looks like funds won't be appropriated for the increase.

The members of the Board requested that Dave Armstrong attend the VFW convention in June, 1973.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

Luigi Caccini

(Chairman)

Charles W. Lick

(secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on May 25, 1973 at 1:00 p.m. in the Horsky Bldg., in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Vince Caciari, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
Charles Lelek, Secretary
Joe Eskildsen
John McGlynn

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie K. Thomas, Secretary

The minutes of the February 23, 1973 meeting were read and amended to read that Dave Armstrong go to the VFW State Convention in June. There being no further corrections the minutes were approved.

The budget for this biennium was then discussed. It was noted that all travel was curtailed on 5-11-73. At is stands now we will have very little money to return to the General Fund. Mrs. Ruth Boyle is retiring effective July 1, 1973 and the money to pay her will have to come out of this years budget. The approximate cost will be \$1100.00 or the maximum that would have to be paid.

The budget for the next biennium was then discussed with Dave Armstrong noting that since travel costs were raised to \$16.00 per diem and 12¢ per mile the service officers would not be able to travel at their present rate as we received no extra money to cover this additional cost. Ways were then discussed to curtail travel costs with the service officers still traveling to each area at least once a month.

The Board members felt that the Administrator, Dave Armstrong, should curtail travel wherever possible but to continue to travel to all areas at least once per month and using natural loops and extended the trips to cover the area all in one trip.

Curtailling the service officers from traveling to district meetings at the expense of the agency was also discussed and it was decided that an article should go to the various organizations newspapers for publication. Joe Eskildsen made the following motion to that extent: "A directive shall go to all organizations that there will be a training school at Ft. Harrison later this fall and all organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, and DAV should try to encourage and set aside funds to have their posts to have representatives at this school from the various parts of the state." The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

The motion was made by Charles Lelek that the following claims be approved: Claims #276 to #409; No Warrant Transfers #638, 638, 628, 631, 635, 642, 652, 649 and 9819. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

We were advised that we could no longer need to maintain books after 7-1-73 as it would all be done by the computer.

Dave Armstrong has attended three meetings with the VA people at three of the Indian reservations in Montana. The indians are becoming aware of their entitlement to benefits and are now applying for them.

Out of State travel was discussed for Dave Armstrong with three alternatives for this fall; the insurance seminar in St. Paul; the VFW National Conference or going to Idaho to pick up the techniques they are using to make their service officer school successful. It was decided that Dave Armstrong should make cost estimates on each of the trips to see if possibly two might be attended.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Don Cavan
(Chairman)

Leslie E. Kitchen
(Acting-Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on July 27, 1973 at 1:00 P.M. in the Horsky Building in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Vince Caciari, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
John Doyle
Joe Eskildsen
John McGlynn

David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Marie Hinman, Secretary

The minutes of the May 25, 1973 meeting were read and approved as read.

Mr. John Doyle of Great Falls, was welcomed as a new member of the Board, replacing Charles Lelek.

The question of what meeting Mr. Armstrong should attend this winter was brought up. A discussion was held and it was decided that the Insurance meeting in St. Paul and the Statewide Veterans Service Officers Conference in Boise would probably serve to be the most valuable. Joe Eskildsen made a motion, seconded by John Grauman that Mr. Armstrong go to the meeting in Idaho. John Grauman moved that the meeting in St. Paul be attended by Mr. Armstrong and was seconded by Joe Eskildsen. Both motions were carried.

John Grauman made a suggestion that the local organizations set aside money and encourage people to attend the Service Officers Refresher School held in Helena. The Service Officers should be asked to put extra stress on this at the District Meetings.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the budget has been approved with no major changes.

A discussion on salaries then followed with the question arising as to why the money that is turned back each year couldn't be carried over for retirement purposes etc. Mr. Armstrong pointed out that any major changes would have to be approved by the Governor. John Grauman suggested the possibility of setting aside money through the Legislature to carry from year to year to take care of terminal leave, only to be used in an emergency. This will be brought up at the Mid-Winter meeting.

A thank you card from Ruth Boyle who retired from the Butte Office was read.

A motion was made and seconded that the following claims be approved. Claims #410 - #479. No Warrant Transfers #10667, 9840, 648, 10695, 7498, 645, 641 and 7509. The motion was carried.

There being no further old business the meeting then moved on to new business.

It was reported that Tom Hamilton, Claims Officer and David Armstrong, Administrator have successfully completed a course covering Training Guide 21-72-1 and associated lecture tapes for Rating Specialists.

The Board was advised that the President of the State Directors Association has asked Mr. Armstrong to serve on the legislature committee, as Pro Tem.

The next business in order was the hiring of a new employee to replace Ruth Boyle in the Butte Office. There were 6 applications for the position with Mrs. Lee Gulley being the best qualified. This was approved by the Board.

The situation at Custer Battlefield was brought up by John Doyle. He stated that in perhaps two years time the cemetery will be full. It was suggested that Custer Battlefield be named a regional cemetery. A motion was made by John Doyle and seconded by John Grauman that the Chairman of the Board write letter to John Mahon, Director of the National Cemeteries and the four State Congressional Delegates to encourage this to be done. The motion was carried.

Election of new officers was then held with the following persons nominated and elected:

John Grauman, Chairman

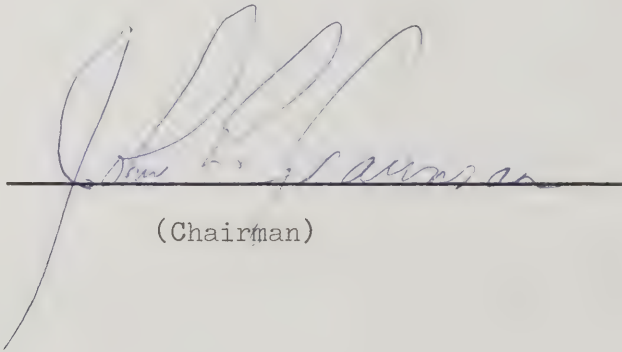
John McGlynn, Vice Chairman

Joe Eskildsen, Secretary

Vince Caciari thanked everyone for their co-operation with him in his term as Chairman.

John Doyle was appointed to write an article for the newspaper covering the Board Meeting and also to print an article every month in the organization papers to familiarize the public with our organization. There will also be a press release announcing the appointment of Mr. Doyle to the Board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.



(Chairman)



(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on November 30, 1973 at 1:30 p.m. at 836 Front Street in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

Joe Eskildsen, Secretary
John Doyle, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie K. Thomas, Secretary

The minutes of the July 27, 1973 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made that the claims and no warrant transfers as per the computer sheets from July 1, 1973 to October 31, 1973 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong reported on the annual training session of the State of Idaho. The meeting is held in conjunction with the Veterans Administration staff and has only been held for the last four years. The prepared questions and their answers are mimeographed in advance and distributed. The service officers of the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission are reimbursed for their travel but the other individuals attending were paying their own expenses except where certain posts helped their representative defray the cost.

Dave Armstrong then reported on the insurance conference at St. Paul. The coverage at this session was not as good as at the previous conference but the attendance was much greater and therefore discussions were limited.

John Grauman presented Bonnie B. Ogg to the members of the Board and she expressed her interest in the job as service officer at Miles City. Mrs. Ogg was interviewed by the Board. A motion was made by John Doyle that Bonnie Ogg's application be accepted and it was appreciated that she had enough interest to attend the Service Officers Training School at Fort Harrison and defray the expenses of the trip to Helena. The motion was seconded and carried.

Several other applications had been received and were distributed and discussed by the Board. Joe Eskildsen made a motion that the Board accept Harvey A. Milton's resignation and that he be given an award of appreciation for his years of service with the Veterans Affairs Division. The motion was seconded and carried.

Joe Eskildsen made a motion that Dave Armstrong continue to accept applications and screen them, separating those he thought would be qualified for the position and bringing them all to the Board meeting in January at which time the Board would make their final decision as to which applicant to hire. The motion was seconded and carried. The applicant would begin work on February 1, 1974.

The subject of hiring a female service officer was discussed. It was noted that previously we had never received an application from a female for the position of service officer. The Attorney General's office was contacted in this regard and their ruling was that a qualified female has equal employment rights to those of her male counterparts. The Board felt that a female veteran with war time service would have priority.

The subject of being allowed to carry over money from the previous biennium or being allowed to budget for terminal leave was again discussed. Dave Armstrong was directed to contact Ben Johns, the former State Budget Director, and see if there were any legal angles that could be applied to this problem. The findings of the discussion are to be reported at the January, 1974 meeting.

The Board then directed Dave Armstrong to obtain cost estimates for cards for the service officers, administrator and Board members. These should contain the following information:

Veterans Affairs Division	Board of Veterans Affairs
Service Officers Name	Members Name
Local Address	Home Address
Phone number.	Phone number

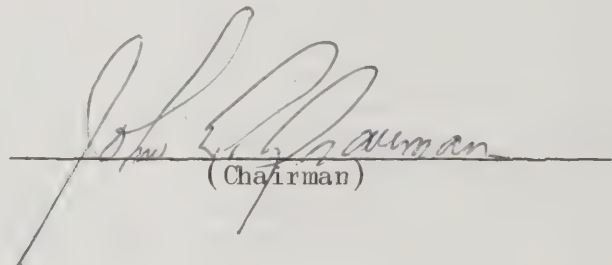
The board made a motion that 500 cards for each should be obtained if the cost was not prohibitive. The motion was seconded and carried. It was also requested that estimates be obtained for placards for the service officers vehicles be obtained.


Joe Eskildsen made a motion that Dave Armstrong be allowed to travel to the conference of his choice for the mid winter meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dale L. Krenik, service officer-accountant in Helena and approved Earl R. Vermillion to replace Dale at \$600.00 per month in the Helena office. The motion was seconded and carried.

Roxie Thomas was directed to request a registration kit on the agenda for the Veteran's Colloquim to see if it would be worthwhile to send Dave Armstrong to the meeting. Also the Small Business Administration and other related agencies were to be contacted by Dave Armstrong and a request for hand out material and pamphlets to be sent to the service officers throughout the state.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on January 4, 1974 at 1:00 p.m. in the Horsky Building in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

John McGlynn, Vice Chairman
Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Secretary
Vince Caciari, Member
John Doyle, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie Thomas, Secretary

The minutes of the November 30, 1973 meeting were read and approved as amended to read "the Board felt that a female veteran with war time service would have priority over someone without any active war time service and would be considered for employment." The minutes being amended the motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made that claims and no warrant transfers as per the computer print out be approved from November 1, 1973 to December 31, 1973. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong reported that in his discussion with Ben Johns, the former Budget Director, that he suggested that we document the effect of terminal leave of our employees and take it up with the Budget Director and Legislature. We might be able to convince them that we be allowed to budget for these expenditures.

The thank you note from Harvey Milton was given to the Board and they signed the certificate of appreciation that is to be given to Harvey upon his retirement.

Printing of cards for service officers, administrator and the board members was then discussed. Dave Armstrong brought to the attention of the Board that we had already expended \$107,000.00 of our \$209,000.00 budget. He also noted that we had already expended our budget for printing which was only \$400.00 and of that amount we still have the expense of printed envelopes that we have to buy. This would amount to about \$36.00 but that was about all we had left. The quotations received for the cards amounted to \$34.00 per thousand. A printer in Billings quoted a price of \$171.00 for 1000 cards for the 17 people (service officers, administrator, and board members.) If only 500 each were ordered it would be \$106.00. Our budget is presently running over and although the postal increase has been delayed by 90 days it won't help us much. Dave also noted that with the increase cost of travel it would not be necessary to wait until April but it was already apparent that we won't have enough money to travel this year until July. Travel will again have to be curtailed.

John McGlynn made a motion that Dave Armstrong be directed to obtain each of the service officers, administrator and Board members business cards. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

The Board then discussed the feasibility of meeting with the Budget Director's office in regard to obtaining additional money for travel, terminal leave and the annual training sessions.

A motion was made that additional money be budgeted for terminal leave, the training sessions and increased mileage. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board then considered the applications for Harvey Milton's retirement. Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen nominated that Bonita B. Ogg replace Harvey Milton in


Miles City. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

It was requested that a letter be sent to the Governor requesting that in his State of the State message he request the Legislature to consider a Viet Nam Bonus now that the Viet Nam Conflict is over.

A letter to the Governor requesting that Congress initiate legislation to allow the Veterans Administration to build at least a hundred bed nursing care facility in Montana. Presently every available bed is full and there is a considerable waiting list. Copies of the above two letters are to be sent to each board member.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

(Chairman)



(Secretary)

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held at the Yogo Inn, Lewistown, Montana on June 14, 1974 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by John McGlynn, acting Chairman, with the following members present:

John Doyle, Member
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary

Joe Russ, VFW Dept. Chaplain
Robert Ruhl, guest
Albert Miron, Guest

Other guests included 4 Vietnam era veterans who presented their problems with regards to Veterans Administration benefits. Their first problem was involving lack of public awareness and communications between them and what VA benefits may be available to them. Several ideas were presented on how information could be disseminated so no loss of benefits would occur. Joe Eskildsen told of the annual veterans affairs conference held usually in November at VAC, Fort Harrison, Montana; put on by the VA personnel to give this information on veterans benefits.

A motion was made by John Doyle to have the VAD service officers in attendance at these meetings scheduled to provide information and assistance needed to give or obtain VA benefits.

Pat Smith, vietnam veteran, told of problems in not getting help. William Crouse, vietnam veteran of Kalispell, suggested more use of local news medias with information such as through radio, TV stations, weekly and daily newspapers.

It was recognized by the Board that Theodore Carkulis, SRS Director, was doing a good job of attempting to provide sufficient funds to personnel.

Al Miron spoke of the upcoming Vietnam veterans bonus forms which would need to be completed so meetings could be held to assist with the forms.

John Doyle mentioned a meeting in Billings with 75 Vietnam veterans in attendance that was a very big success because of advertising and promotion.

Joe Russ told of an ojt situation where he has a Vietnam veteran in training and by persistence got the program approved. He suggested that you not give up even if the first answer is no.

John McGlynn offered continued help from the VAD Board in solving Vietnam veterans problems through our offices.

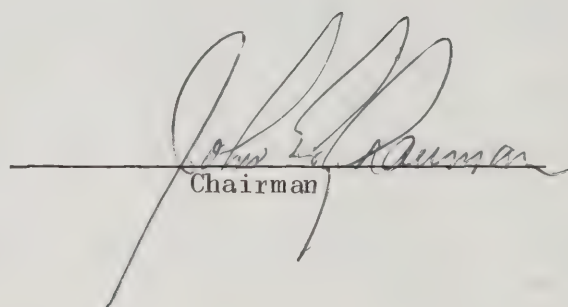
William Crouse of Kalispell who is a Vietnam veteran suggested that Vietnam veterans organize with VFW to assist in solution of problems they may encounter. He wants names of post members to give them information on problems so they may help.

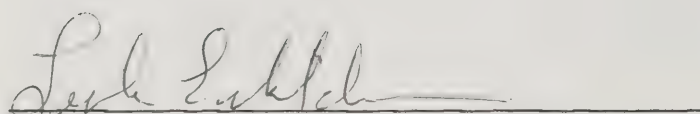
Larry Longfellow said this meeting was not to just get membership but to assist all veterans and their dependents.

Vietnam veterans feel that the Board of Veterans Affairs could offer much assistance by meeting at VFW and American Legion Department Conventions.

Dick Maragan, Post Commander of Livingston, asked how to better get information to veterans and widows on benefits.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on April 19, 1974 at 1:00 p.m. in the Horsky Building in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

John J. McGlynn, Vice Chairman
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary
 John Doyle, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
 Roxie K. Thomas, Secretary

Vince Caciari was unable to attend due to conflicting business.

The minutes of the January 4, 1974 meeting were read and approved as read.

The claims from the computer printout from January 1, 1974 to March 31, 1974 were approved.

The budget was then discussed. We received the insurance money from the Butte fire and have immediately put it to replace the equipment that has been borrowed from SRS for the interim. At this point the budget as a whole looks as though we will end up the fiscal year with about \$160.00 and we will again have to cut travel effective May 10, 1974 as there will be no more money available. Board meetings cost us about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a months travel for our service officers when the Board members come to Helena. We are still receiving the same amount of money for travel as we were ten years ago and the costs have increased considerably.

We have not as yet received the worksheets to start setting up the budget but will have to increase other compensation which includes the money for Board meetings and secretary fees and will need an additional \$2000.00 for terminal leaves. Harvey Milton's retirement cost about \$1300.00.

John McGlynn made a motion that when the new budget was presented that it include funds for the members of the Board to attend the State Conventions of the various service organizations and hold a meeting in conjunction with the conventions. The Board members will also be available to go to the Budget Office and Legislature with Dave Armstrong for the additional funds. The motion was seconded and carried.

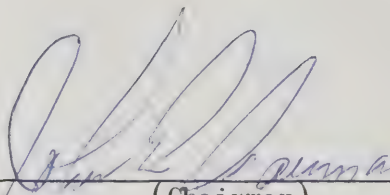
Dave Armstrong noted that since we have had to cut travel back again our overall contacts to date were down 3500.

A motion was made by John Doyle that Dave Armstrong continue to travel to district meetings once a year in conjunction with visiting the service offices at least that often. The motion was seconded by John McGlynn and carried.

A motion was made that the next Board meeting be held in Billings on July 12, 1974 at 9:00 a.m. at the American Legion hall in conjunction with the American Legion Department Convention. Joe Henderson will be requested to make arrangements for a meeting room. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board directed Dave Armstrong to propose a bill to our congressional delegation to propose legislation that the Montana Veterans Affairs Division be reimbursed for preparation of veterans claims for submission to the Veterans Administration. The Veterans Administration would reimburse the equivalent cost of preparation of a claim and this should in no way be construed as providing the VA with any controls over the State Veterans Affairs. This proposal is to be drafted and sent to the Board members for signature and then forwarded to the Congressional delegation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



(Chairman)



(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held in Billings, Montana at the American Legion Building in conjunction with the American Legion Department Convention on July 12, 1974. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by John Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

John J. McGlynn, Vice Chairman
 Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Secretary
 John M. Doyle, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
 Roxie K. Thomas, Secretary

The minutes of the April 19, 1974 meeting were read and approved as read.

The minutes of the June 14, 1974 meeting at Lewistown, Montana were read and approved as read.

A motion was made by John McGlynn that the claims through June 30, 1974 as per the computer printout be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made that the application of Buelah Clark as secretary in Bozeman be approved with a starting salary of \$470.00. She is to replace Louise Mickelson. The motion was seconded and carried.

The replies from the Congressional delegation were discussed regarding state agencies being re-imburSED for filing of VA claims for veterans. It seemed from the answers that we received that we did not clearly state our intent and purpose. It was noted that Representative Dick Shoup was attending the convention and if it was possible the Board would like to meet with him during the meeting.

Representative Dick Shoup was presented to the Board and a clarification of our request to the Congressional Delegation then ensued. Our intentions in receiving federal re-imbursement for the filing of claims was discussed and the fact that we represented the veteran before the Veterans Administration because they could not represent the veteran before themselves. The possibility of receiving funds from HEW sources was discussed and felt that if we were able to obtain funds from this source it would have to be for rehabilitation. If the funds were unavailable from HEW (PL93112 Rehab. Act Special Project for unemployable Disabled Veterans) then separate legislation to receive the funds from the VA budget would be necessary. The Board of Veterans Affairs of Montana are interested only in administering veterans programs.

Current legislation in Congress was then discussed and it was hoped that the bill for veterans tuition would pass as it was much more realistic than the present program. With rising costs of tuition and living a veteran could not complete college unless he has outside income from some source.

The veterans pension bills are in committee and it seems wrong that the veteran should be continually penalized because of increases in Social Security. Eventually if the program is not changed veterans will no longer be entitled to a pension as the income limits are not realistic.

Representative Dick Shoup suggested that a meeting with the Congressional delegation sometime in March each year with the Board should be considered. Possibly all of the delegation could not make it but some of them could and they would then have a better idea of what veterans legislation is pertinent and possibly what legislation should be submitted to Congress.

A motion was made by John McGlynn that a letter be sent to the National Park Service requesting that disabled veterans be allowed the use of our National Parks

and campgrounds at no cost as do senior citizens and some other special groups. The motion was seconded and carried.

The three items of special interest to the Board in regards to legislation in Congress are: (1) Reimbursement for the filing of claims to the VA for veterans; (2) Contracted domiciliary care units in Montana (3) Free Golden Eagle passes for disabled or handicapped veterans.

A letter of appreciation should be sent to Dick Shoup thanking him for attending the meeting and outlining our requests to Congress. A carbon copy should be sent to John Melcher. All letters to Dick Shoup should be marked 'special attention.'

New business was then discussed starting with explaining to the Board that all receipts would have to be submitted on their trips to meetings or they would not be paid. This is a new ruling by the Department of Administration. The Board has the option to continue using this method or changing to receiving mileage and per diem. John Doyle made a motion that the Board switch to using mileage and per diem allowances rather than having to submit receipts for actual and necessary expenses. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Doyle that Dave Armstrong attend the NASDVA Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona and the mid-winter meeting in Washington, D. C. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.

The proposed budget for 1975-77 biennium was then discussed. The Board felt that more money should be requested for travel and communications for use of long distance calls by the service officers who do not have access to a hot line and for additional Board meetings at the Department conventions. Terminal leaves should also be documented to that an increase in employee benefits could be obtained as employees who are retiring are costing us about \$2000.00 and there just is not that much money in the budget. It was noted that George Loucks from Wolf Point would have to retire in August. A motion was made that the budget be approved with these increases. The motion was seconded and carried.

It was requested that an announcement be made at the Joint Session that the members of the Board would be available at 4:00 p.m. in Room 110 at the Ramada Inn for those individuals who had specific problems to discuss with the Board.

The next meeting of the Board should be at the discretion of the Budget Office after they have made a ruling on our budget. This would probably be sometime in September or October.

The re-organization of the Board then ensued. A unanimous ballot was cast for John J. McGlynn for Chairman; John Doyle, Vice Chairman; and Vince Caciari, Secretary.

A motion was made that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

John J. McGlynn
(Chairman)

Vince Caciari
(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held in Helena, Montana on November 22, 1974 at 836 Front Street in the SRS Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by John J. McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Doyle, Vice Chairman
Vince Caciari, Secretary
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Member
John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

The July 12, 1974 meeting minutes were read and amended to read the next meeting would be called by the Chairman in conjunction with the Budget Office. The motion was made the minutes be approved as amended, seconded and carried.

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen made a motion that the application of Mike Wolf to replace George Loucks in Wolf point be approved at a starting salary of \$617.24 beginning 9-3-74. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made that the application of Ms. Val M. Hentges to replace Debra Nelson in Wolf Point at \$479.26 per month 11-4-74 was approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

The replies from the Congressional delegation regarding federal matching funds for the filing of veterans claims was then discussed. The congressional delegation felt that legislation would have to be introduced as under HEW regulations we would not be able to administer the programs without coming under federal controls. The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs had been checking into this program but decided to drop the program because of all of the federal controls involved. Most of the programs were not specifically for veterans benefits. At the present time we do not fit under any of the current titles.

Senator Metcalf indicated that he would be glad to support legislation in reference to Golden Eagle Passes for disabled and handicapped veterans but he did not indicate that he would introduce such legislation.

David W. Armstrong, Jr. reported on the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference mentioning the resolution adopted regarding amnesty which did not have much effect as the President declared his amnesty program shortly thereafter. The congressional delegation replied to the resolution with mixed feeling.

The new state job classification plan was then discussed and David W. Armstrong, JR. explained to the Board what steps he had taken to correct the Personnel Divisions classifications of the employees in our division. The Board felt that their might be some inequities but it would give the employees a chance to advance if they desired to move to another locality.

John Doyle made a motion that the claims through October 31, 1975 as per the computer print out be approved. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

The Governor is going to request a low cost loan program for real estate loans to be directed by the state and guaranteed by the state. The American Legion and VFW are supporting this type of program also.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the following resolution be adopted by the Board:

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration loan program for veterans both Direct and Home loans, have reached a current high interest rate of $9\frac{1}{2}\%$, and
WHEREAS, This interest rate plus high discounting practices by commercial lenders, has forced payments so high that veterans may not qualify for a home loan, and

WHEREAS, Home building and purchasing curtailment resulting from inability for veterans to qualify for loans as well as shortages of commercial money, is creating loss of jobs and recessions in many of our Montana communities, especially in lumber and logging industries, and

WHEREAS, Many thousands of veterans in Montana would like to purchase or build homes, but are currently unable to,

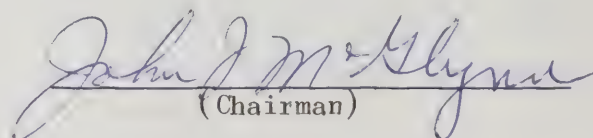
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Veterans Affairs, State of Montana work towards passage of appropriate legislation in the 1975 Montana State Legislature that will provide our Montana veterans with low cost interest rate home loan financing.

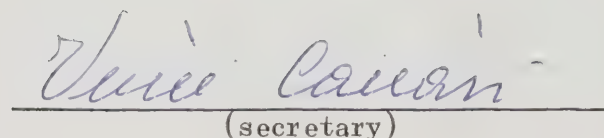
The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the Board of Veterans Affairs support the contracted nursing care bed program in Billings. A letter of support is to go to Mr. Henry S. Cox, Chairman, and the Board Members names and addresses are to be listed on the bottom. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that David W. Armstrong, Jr. attend the meeting on December 2, 1974 in Billings, Montana on behalf of the Board in support of the nursing care bed project. The motion was seconded by Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen and carried.

A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen that the meeting be adjourned and the next Board meeting would be called at the discretion of the Chairman, John J. McGlynn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on February 7, 1975 at 1:00 p.m. in the Horsky Block Building in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John J. McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

John L. Doyle, Vice Chairman
Vince Caciari, Secretary
John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie K. Thomas, Administrative Secretary

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen was unable to attend the meeting.

The minutes of the November 22, 1974 meeting were read and approved as read.

Legislation during the current session was then discussed. It was noted that the job classifications were now a fact and most of the Veterans Affairs Division staff had been upgraded. The state pay plan is receiving considerable opposition largely due to classifications. Hopefully some equitable pay plan would be passed. The nursing home at Billings has been proposed, as has legislation to change the law for license plates for totally disabled veterans and the Viet Nam Bonus bill.

The budget was then discussed. It was noted that the Wolf Point office had no further word on having to move. The Miles City office has been moved to its new location and now has access to the state hot line. The rent was increased and then decreased to what we had previously been paying. There is an additional charge of \$5.00 per month for the hot line. At the present time it is not feasible to have the hot line in every office as it runs about \$70.00 per month per office.

David Armstrong reported that we had only budgeted for the Board to hold four meetings in non-legislative years and five meetings in legislative years. If the Board is to travel to the Department conventions it will be necessary to curtail the service officers travel possibly as early as March, 1975. There is just not enough money in our budget.

Dave also reported that all of the offices in the field are quite busy. Mike Wolf in Wolf Point is doing quite well and he is especially to be commended because he had to train a new secretary shortly after taking over the office in Wolf Point.

It has been suggested by the budget office that the Secretary of the Board submit a statement of services rendered each month to be submitted with his claim. A motion was made by John Doyle that a statement be mimeographed for the secretary to sign and return for his payment to be submitted. The motion was seconded and carried.

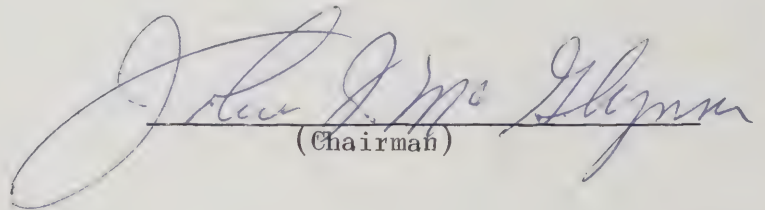
Vince Caciari brought to the attention of the Board that Dick Welsh at the Soldiers Home in Columbia Falls refuses to receive Medicaid money because he would loose money if he did. Mr. Caciari requested that Dave Armstrong get in touch with Jack Carlson and find out just exactly what the regulations and problems are and if the home would loose money; then Dave is to send the results to Mr. Caciari so that he could discuss the matter further with Dick Welsh. There seems to be so much misinformation going around that no one is sure exactly what the Medicaid program does involve. A motion was made that this matter be tabled until the next meeting when all the information has been compiled.


The Board expressed their pleasure and congratulations that David W. Armstrong Jr. was appointed as Vice President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

s Dave Armstrong was directed by the Board to attend the Department Conventions of the DAV, VFW and American Legion. A motion was made that the members of the Board hold meetings at the Department conventions of the VFW, DAV and American Legion. Dave Armstrong is directed to notify the various organizations and request that time be set aside for the meetings and that the meetings notice be placed in the convention handbooks. The motion was seconded and carried.

John Doyle made the motion that the Board would elect its officers at the American Legion Department Convention in July, 1975. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to adjourn. There being no further business the motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on June 12, 1975 at 11:15 a.m. in the VFW Club at Glendive, Montana during the VFW Department Convention. The meeting was called to order by John J. McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

John L. Doyle, Vice Chairman
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

Richard Welsh, Commandant, of the Montana Veterans Home was presented to the Board and discussed his reasons for not wanting Medicaid for the members of the Home. Mr. Welsh also mentioned that the Home now has a Memorial Fund managed by a Board of Trustees. This fund is separate from state funds and can be used for the benefit of the Home.

There being no further open discussion from the floor, Chairman McGlynn convened the regular business meeting.

The minutes of the February 7, 1975 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen to approve the claims thru May, 1975. The motion was seconded and carried.

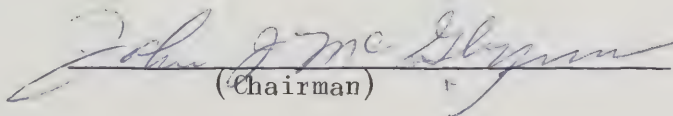
Under Old Business the appropriations for the 1976-77 biennium were discussed. Eskildsen moved to tentatively approve the budget proposed by the Administrator including the curtailment of travel. The motion was seconded by Doyle and carried.

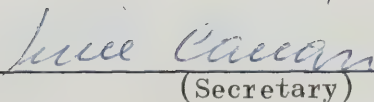
The VFW citation presented to Arlene Soderstrom of the Kalispell Office was read to the Board by Dave Armstrong.

Dave Armstrong listed the meetings coming up for the coming year and stated that the VFW and American Legion National Conventions would be attended by some of the Service Officers. He suggested that one of the service officers be sent to St. Paul, Minnesota in October to attend the VA Insurance Seminar. Also mentioned was Service Officers School in the fall held by the VA at Fort Harrison, Montana. John Doyle made the motion that Bill Daley-Butte be sent to the Insurance Seminar and make a report at the Service Officers meeting this fall. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.

John Doyle moved that Dave Armstrong be allowed to utilize his accumulated leave time to participate in the 1000 mile Iditarod Trail Race in Alaska next February and March. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried. Dave explained that he had been asked to go on an all expenses paid basis but had held off giving the sponsor an answer subject to the approval of the Board.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on July 11, 1975 at 1:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall, Great Falls, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John H. McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Doyle, Vice Chairman
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Albert Miron, Service Officer
Ruddy R. Reilly, Service Officer
Robert Ruhl, Service Officer

The minutes of the June 12, 1975 meeting were read and approved as read.

Dave Armstrong advised the members of the Board of Gary Berg, Service Officer, in Great Falls tendering his resignation effective 6-27-75 to accept employment with the Federal Government.

Dave Armstrong was directed by the Board to accept applications for a replacement for the next two months and plan to hire an individual by the first of the year.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that his planned trip to Alaska appears to be cancelled so he will probably not take the time off.

After checking the budget further it will be determined if Berg's position will be able to be filled earlier and if so the Board will be advised of this possibility.

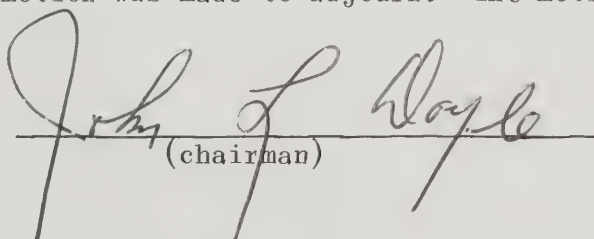
The State of Montana has again adopted a new form to submit for mileage and per diem and these were distributed to the members of the Board.

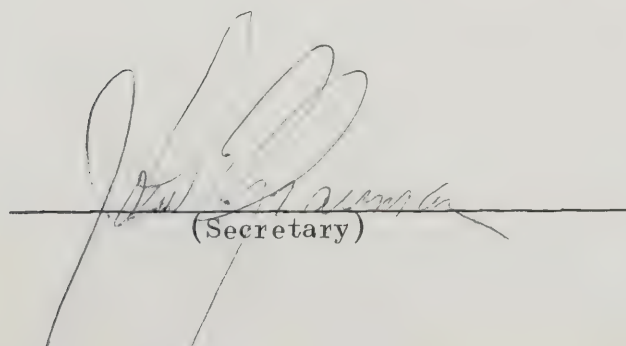
Notice has been received that Vince Caciari has been re-appointed to the Board for another five(5) year term from the Governor's Office.

Election of officers ensued with John Doyle being appointed Chairman, Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Vice Chairman, and John Grauman, Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried.

The next planned meeting of the Board will probably be held in conjunction with the Service Officers Refresher Training Session at Fort Harrison with a joint meeting of the Board and Service Officers the later part of October or the first part of November.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(chairman)


(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on November 21, 1975 at 1:00 p.m. in the Veterans & Pioneers Memorial Building meeting room in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, John Doyle, with the following members present:

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Vice Chairman
John Grauman, Secretary
John J. McGlynn, Member
Vince Caciari, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Admin.
Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec.

The minutes of the July 11, 1975 meeting were read and approved as read.

Some of the Board members did not receive the new travel claims and it was requested that these be sent to them so they would be able to submit their travel claims.

A motion was made by Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen that the claims through October, 1975 be approved. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

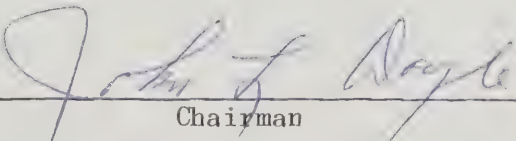
The Board was advised by Dave Armstrong that Gary Berg in Great Falls had terminated his employment with us for a federal job. The Board members considered the applications which had been received to date. John McGlynn made a motion that Fred L. Fairhurst be hired effective 12-15-75 or on whatever date would be convenient to him so that he could give notice to his present employer. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried. It was requested that Ruddy R. Reilly be called and advised of the Board's decision.

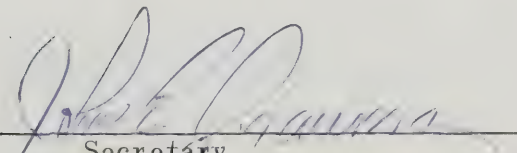
Due to the Governor being upset about so much out of state travel a freeze has been placed on such travel. In the past we have always allowed our service officers to attend National Rehabilitation Conferences but under the new rule it may be necessary for them to take annual leave to attend. A motion was made by John Grauman that Dave Armstrong go to the American Legion National Conference and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference to be held in Washington, D. C. from February 29, 1976 to March 4, 1976. The motion was seconded and carried.

William Daley, service officer in Butte, extended his thanks and appreciation for the Boards allowing him to attend the insurance conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. He really appreciated the opportunity and received a lot of good information from the meetings.

A motion was made by John Grauman that a letter of thanks be sent to the B.P.O.E. State Chairman for the outstanding work they have been doing for the veterans of Montana. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business the motion was made to adjourn, with a tentative meeting to be set in January or February, 1976. The motion was seconded and carried.


Chairman


Secretary

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on January 30, 1976 at 1:00 p.m. in the state office, Horsky Building, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John Doyle, Chairman, with the following members present:

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Vice Chairman
John Grauman, Secretary
John McGlynn, Member
Vince Caciari, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec. I

The minutes of the November 21, 1975 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the claims through December 31, 1975 be approved. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

The Board was advised that Sue Olson, Secretary, in Billings had terminated her employment. A motion was made to approve the application of Gail Coakley to replace Sue Olson in Billings at a starting salary of \$3.799 per hour effective February 2, 1976. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong noted that the new admissions building at Fort Harrison has been started and will move the admissions to the hospital as soon as it is completed. Everyone felt that this will be a big help as things won't be as scattered as they have been in the past.

Dave Armstrong mentioned to the Board that as of this budgeting period the Budget Office has requested that costs be projected thru 1981 on the new budget forms. The guidelines we have received is a 5% increase in all areas except wages where the salary matrix will be used and any cost of living increase added that is allowed by Legislature. In the current fiscal year we will be short about \$3000 in our travel budget so we will again have to curtail travel early. The increased cost of travel amounts to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ % but we were not allowed to anticipate the increases and budget for them. Travel is currently running about \$200 per month per service officer and each service officer spends at least one night away from home. In order to properly budget for Board meetings the Board should set guidelines determining how many meetings they plan to have and where these meetings will be held.

After a general discussion by the Board a motion was made by John Grauman that the Board would hold four (4) meetings per year in Helena, Montana and the Administrator and Chairman of the Board or his delegate would attend the Department Conventions of the service organizations each year. The motion was seconded and carried.

John McGlynn brought to the attention of the Board that there is rumored a move by the service organizations to have the Veterans Affairs Division transferred to the Department of Military Affairs. The members of the Board expressed mixed concern over this move. A motion was made that this situation should be closely watched and at the time that something definite is known the Board should request a hearing and be allowed to present their arguments of the pros and cons of this move. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the proposed budget for 1977-1978 be approved with allowances being made for additional money for a full years travel for the service officers, Board and out of state travel at the current levels. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion by John McGlynn was made to adjourn with the next meeting to be called at the discretion of the Chairman. The motion was seconded and carried.

John L. Hume
(Secretary)

John L. Doyle
(Chairman)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on May 14, 1976 at 1:00 p.m. in the State Office, Horsky Building, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John Doyle, Chairman, with the following members present:

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Vice Chairman
John Grauman, Secretary
John McGlynn, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec.

Vince Caciari was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

The minutes of the January 30, 1976 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made that the claims from 1-1-76 to 4-30-76 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong mentioned that the VA budget in Congress was in trouble. Senator Cranston's motion for a resolution lost and many people on pensions will lose them because there is no allowance for cost of living increases in the VA budget. Many of them will lose their pensions in October, 1976 and many more will lose their pensions effective 1-1-77.

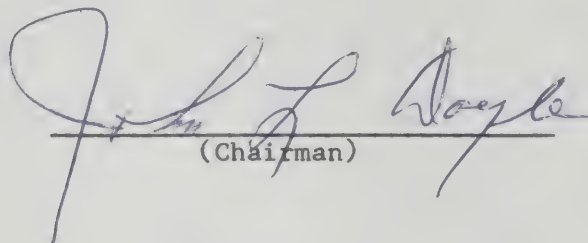
Dave Armstrong mentioned that the Fair Labor Standards Division does not consider our employees as exempt so they will have to be paid overtime as they are not entitled to comp time. The area that will create the greatest problem is travel as we have no money for overtime and have therefore drafted the attached policy for the Board's approval. The copies of the policy were distributed to the Board members and were discussed at length. A motion was made by John Grauman that the policy be adopted as written and where it is necessary for the Service Officers to travel to district meetings Dave Armstrong would amend their work schedule so they would only work 40 hours during that week. This would be done with ample notice to the service officer so he can re-arrange his schedule with Dave Armstrong's prior approval. The motion was seconded and carried. At such time as we receive overtime funds from Legislature this policy can be amended.

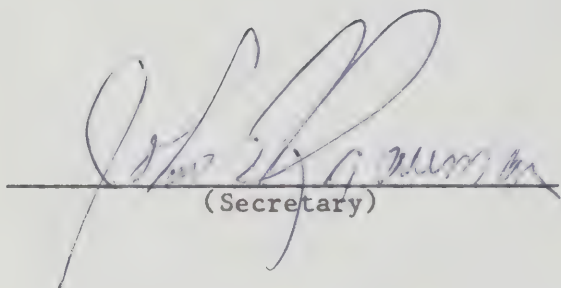
Guidelines finally arrived from the Budget Office on the budget for fiscal 77-79. We are allowed a 5% overall increase in current spending. We have budgeted on the basis of 12 months travel per year, 3 out of state meetings each year plus travel to the Department conventions. Salaries have been figured on the basis of the salary matrix effective 7-1-76 with those cost of living increases projected on that basis. Legislature may change the cost of living at any time. The Board reflected that there were not any significant changes from the previously approved budget request approved by the Board. The budget has to be submitted by 7-1-76.

We have again received an inquiry into the fees for the Secretary of the Board. After all of these years someone at the capitol has questioned the expenditure. A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen that the secretary of the board continue to receive \$50.00 per month for services rendered. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that travel for the service officers would begin again on 8-15-76. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn with the next meeting scheduled in July by a post card poll of the Board. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

STATE OF MONTANA
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Big Sky Country



THOMAS L. JUDGE
Governor

THEODORE CARKULIS
Director

Veterans Affairs Division
P. O. Box 1702
Helena, Montana 59601

May 6, 1976

TO ALL EMPLOYEES:

FROM: DAVID W. ARMSTRONG, JR., Administrator *242.*

The hours of work for the Department of SRS and the Veterans Affairs Division for non-exempt employees are eight hours per day five days per week. Part-time employees hours are as scheduled.

It is Department Policy and Division Policy that no overtime is allowed and employees working overtime are subject to disciplinary action--including dismissal.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act non-exempt employees must be paid overtime for hours in excess of forty hours per week. The State has ruled that state employees will work eight hours per day five days per week.

Because of these two regulations and due to the classification of all of our employees as non-exempt the following regulations are effective and mandatory immediately:

- (1) Clerical help may not work more than eight hours per day five days per week.
- (2) Service Officers may not work more than eight hours per day including travel time. All travel will have to be done between the hours of eight a.m. and five p.m. with a one hour stop for lunch or an equivalent schedule.
- (3) Service Officers will schedule their itineraries to comply with regulation #2.
- (4) Service Officers will schedule their five day work week to include those Saturdays and Sundays where they attend District meetings officially.
- (5) Compensatory time cannot be allowed non-exempt employees therefore time in excess of fifteen minutes in the morning and fifteen minutes in the afternoon for personal reasons must be charged to annual leave or sick leave.
- (6) Leave time must be recorded as used and long periods must be requested in advance on leave request forms.
- (7) Service office hours must be 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

It is realized that the delivery of service to the veterans and their dependents becomes more difficult to achieve with the limited funds available.

If further clarification is needed I will call if requested to do so.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David".

Human Resources: Our Greatest Asset

A motion was made by John Grauman that a letter be drafted to Congress expressing an opinion to avoid the hiring of aliens for government jobs especially over our veterans. The motion was seconded and carried.

Motions were made for election of the following officers:

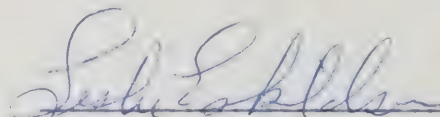
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Chairman

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman

John J. McGlynn, Secretary

The motions were seconded and carried. The meeting was then turned over to the new Chairman.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

The Annual Training Session held in conjunction with the Veterans Administration Service Officers Refresher Training Session held at Fort Harrison was called to order by Leslie 'Joe' Eskikdsen, Chairman of the Montana Board of Veterans Affairs, at 8:30 a.m. November 19, 1976 in the SRS Conference Room in Helena, Montana with the following individuals present:

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman
John J. McGlynn, Secretary
David W. Armstrong, Jr., Admin.

John Doyle, Member
John Grauman, Member
Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec.

the following Service Officers from the field:

Joe Henderson
Robert Ruhl
William Daley
Ruddy R. Reilly
Fred Fairhurst

Earl Vermillion
Thomas Hamilton
Albert Miron
William Heikkinen
Mike Wolf

Arnold McLees, an applicant for the Miles City Service Officer Trainee opening was also present.

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

Earl Vermillion, Supplies, payroll, etc.
Thomas Hamilton, Claims at Ft. Harrison
Roxie Thomas, Office procedures & leave (sick-annual)
David W. Armstrong, Jr., Open discussion

Mr. Patrick Melby, Acting Director, Dept. of SRS, was presented to the meeting and gave a short presentation.

Ruddy R. Reilly, Benefits for military retirees
William Daley, Locating veterans records

Other guest speakers included

American Legion, Tony Cumming
Disabled American Veterans, John Sloan
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Robert Durkee

Adjournment of the training session then followed.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was then called to order by Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Chairman, with all Board members present.

The minutes of the July 23, 1976 meeting were read and approved as read.

Arnold McLees, applicant for the Miles City job was interviewed by the members of the Board and thanked for his interest in veterans and his attendance at the training sessions.

Dave Armstrong reported that he had received replies from the Congressional Delegation in reference to the hiring of aliens and the delegation indicated their concern in this matter also.

Both the American Legion and VFW have passed resolutions to help support the Veterans Affairs Division in obtaining enough money in our travel budget so that curtailment in the next biennium will not be necessary.

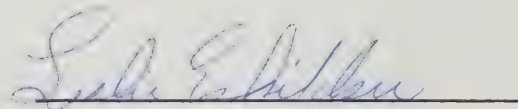
John Grauman made a motion that letters of thanks and appreciation should be sent to Richard L. Roudebush, Admin. of Veterans Affairs, Charles Peckarsky, Dir. of Comp. & Pen., Charles C. Walter, Dir. VAC., and Martin F. Bleskey, Veterans Services Div., VAC, for a very fine and well put together Service Officers Refresher Training Session. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by dJohn Grauman that letters be sent to the Congressional delegation asking them to support the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee as its record of assisting in obtaining veterans benefits has been quite good and the Board feels if it is done away with as recommended by the Temporary Select Committee to Study Committees the veteran population would suffer. The motion was seconded and carried.

John Doyle made a motion that the claims thru October, 1976 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board then screend the applicants for the Miles City service officers trainee position. A motion was made by John Grauman that Arnold McLees be hired for the position. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried. The Board also indicated that if Legislature should allow for the position of trainee in the Billings office that Mr. Ernest T. Kandas be placed in this position if he was still available and desired the job. A letter to this effect should be sent to Mr. Kandas.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.



(Chairman)



(Secretary)

The January 14, 1977 meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the SRS Building in Helena, Montana by Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Chairman, with the following members present:

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman
John McGlynn, Secretary
John Grauman
John Doyle

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

The minutes of the November 19, 1976 meeting were read and approved as read.

David Armstrong reported that the replies of the Congressional delegation to the letter from the Board did not exactly apply to the support requested for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee except the reply from Senator Metcalf.

Letters had been received from Patrick Melby, Director SRS, and Jack Stuart, Personnel Officer SRS, that our Service Officers I, II, III and Claims Officer would be eligible for comp-time.

A motion was made that the claims paid through December 31, 1976 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman that Dave Armstrong go to the American Legion National Convention in Washington, D. C. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

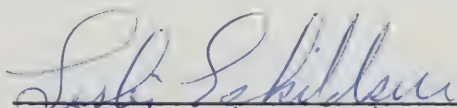
A motion was made by John Grauman that Yvonne Stennes of Wolf Point be hired to replace Val Hentges effective 1-5-77. The motion was seconded and carried.

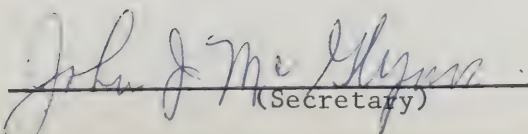
Dave Armstrong Advised that the Legislative Fiscal Analyst suggested that Mr. John Sloan, DAV, and Mr. Robert Durkee, VFW, report the duties of the secretaries hired under contract so that we would have some idea of their functions. The Board felt that this should be complied with.

The eligibility technicians in SRS have filed an appeal to be re-classified and have cited the VAD Service Officers as an example in their appeal so we will have to appear to justify the classifications of the Service Officers. This is currently being arranged.

John McGlynn reported on the Executive Committee meeting of the DAV in Livingston. The DAV is going to support additional money in travel and for a service officer trainee in Billings for the VAD. There was a very good turnout for this meeting. The DAV feels that the cigarette tax was originally set up for veterans and it should not be used for any other purpose. The DAV also feels that the service organizations should hire a full-time lobbyist to support legislation at the Montana Legislative sessions.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on June 16, and 17, 1977 in conjunction with the VFW Convention in Havre, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, with the following members present:

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman
John 'Jack' McGlynn, Secretary
John Grauman
John Doyle

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

Also attending were:

Robert Ruhl, Service Officer
Albert Miron, Service Officer
As well as several VFW members.

The State Department of Labor has ruled that the VAD Service Officers are not considered exempt employees and therefore not entitled to compensatory time for hours worked in excess of forty hours. The policy that the forty hour work week must be scheduled to include time required for conducting Service Officer School.

Dave Armstrong also reported that the use of VAD Service Officer positions as reason to upgrade the classification of Eligibility Technicians in the appeal process before the State Personnel Appeals Board had been dropped.

A general discussion concerning Service Officer Schools for various veterans organizations and the travel expenses involved was entered into. It was generally agreed that if the veterans organization desired our service officers to conduct training sessions it served a useful purpose and was good public relations.

A motion was made to approve the claims for expenditures from 1-1-77 thru 5-30-77. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to authorize Dave Armstrong to attend the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) meeting in Reno, Nevada September 11 through 14, 1977. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to have Albert Miron attend the Government Life Insurance Training Conference October 5, and 6, 1977 at the VA Insurance Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong presented the legislative background concerning the placing of a service officer in Havre. The legislature appropriated the funds for the salary of a service officer at Grade 10 to start at \$10,376 and about \$22,000 for the biennium. The only funds appropriated in addition to salary are for personnel benefits such as PERS, SS and insurance. Arrangements have been made to secure free office space. A motion was made to place a service officer in Havre as soon as possible after August 1 with the service officer trainee in Great Falls to be offered the position at Grade 10. If Fairhurst turns down the position then a service officer trainee at Grade 8 would be sought. The Board re-affirmed its decision that Ernest Kandas be offered the first service officer position available. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board was advised that John J. (Jack) McGlynn had been reappointed to the Board for the term ending 5-18-82 by letter from the Governor dated 5-27-77.

Nominations for Officers effective 7-1-77 were called for the following slate was approved unanimously:

Vince Caciari, Chairman
John Grauman, Vice Chairman
John Doyle, Secretary

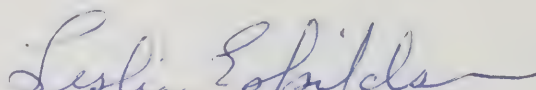
The meeting was recessed by Chairman Eskildsen until 9:00 15 a.m. at the same place on 6-17-77.

The meeting re-convened at 9:15 a.m. after inspecting the office space offered by the Havre VFW Post. John Grauman made a motion that a two year contract at a dollar (\$1.00) a year for the office space be drawn up. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dave Armstrong reported that the Legislative Audit had been done of the Division as part of the overall SRS Audit. In general the audit brought to light only minor points that needed clarifying. The audit did, however, bring to light the claiming of mileage not traveled by the Billings office. The future travel claims were corrected immediately and documentation of all the excess mileage was started. No evidence of intent to fraudulently claim excess mileage was detected. The Board felt they would be derelict in their duty if they did not recover the funds expended for travel not made. Motion was made by John McGlynn that Joe Henderson be requested to repay travel overages. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dave Armstrong reported that the total appropriation for fiscal year 1978 is \$337,805. This amount includes the new salary increases and funds for Havre.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Sep 16, 1977 in the SRS Building, Helena, Mt. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vince Caciari, Chairman with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen
 John 'Jack' McGlynn

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
 Roxie Thomas, Administrative Secretary

John Doyle, Secretary, was unable to attend do to conflicting schedules.

The minutes of the June 16 and 17, 1977 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made to approve the claims for 6-1-77 to 8-31-77. The motion was seconded and carried.

The budget for 1978-79 was submitted to the Board. A motion was made to accept the budget. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman to bring the field secretaries in along with the service officers for the Veterans Benefits Refresher Training Sessions at Ft. Harrison, Montana on November 16 & 17, 1977 for the sessions and November 18, 1977 for training by State Office personnel. The motion was seconded and carried. The Board felt that the service officers could make arrangements to find someone to answer the phones and take appointments until the staff returned to the field.

Jack McGlynn asked for clarification of the way the secretaries for the VFW and DAV at Fort Harrison, Montana are paid. It was explained by Dave Armstrong that the monetary amount of the contracts was set by Legislature and the Board is unable to change those figures. The DAV and VFW will have to go to Legislature with a request for an increase on their own behalf. We were only allowed a percentage increase by the Budget Office and this percentage was put in.

There being several applicants waiting to be interviewed the Board felt the next order of business should be to start interviews. The following applicants were interviewed by the Board: Mr. Charles T. Lofstead, Mr. James M. Hays, Ms. Marilyn A. Combs, Mr. Jay T. Jarvey, Mr. Lionel D. Coon III, Mr. Kenneth E. Maki, Mr. John L. Newell. Other applications reviewed by the Board were sent in by: Terrence E. Perry; Carroll K. Carrier, Jr.; William F. Boston; Robert M. Shropshire; Donald M. Simpkins; James H. Taylor.

A motion was made to adjourn for the dinner hour with the Board to re-convene again at 2:00 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board then started the screening process of the applicants. After discussing the applicants a motion was made by Joe Eskildsen the Mr. Lionel David Coon III of Billings, Montana be hired for the service officer trainee position in Great Falls at Grade 8, Step I. The Board felt that in all fairness to all applicants mention should be made to the service officers at the November, 1977 meeting that they would prefer not to have letters of recommendation from staff members. This motion was seconded and carried.

The next order of business was a report from Dave Armstrong on the status of Joe Henderson's excessive travel claims and the stand that Mr. Henderson has taken. The Board expressed their surprise that he would take such a stand as they had originally had the impression that it was just an honest error on the part of Joe and his secretarial staff. Their feeling since Joe's letter of 9-16-77 is that there might be room for doubt as to his actual intentions. A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen that since the Board has room for reasonable doubt they cannot accept Joe Henderson's statement of 9-16-77. The money for mileage was erroneously paid and Joe Henderson was not entitled to it and since he is not willing to re-imburse the State of Montana the Board is directing Dave Armstrong to turn the material over to the Legal Staff of SRS for their opinion. Upon a determination for the Legal Staff the Board will act on their determination of the avenues for re-couping the money owed or terminating Mr. Henderson's employ. The motion was seconded by Jack McGlynn and carried.

There being no further business a motion was made that the meeting adjourn with the next meeting of the Board to be held on November 18, 1977 in conjunction with the Veterans Service Officer's Refresher Training Sessions. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Carson
(Chairman)

John F. Doyle
(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on November 18, 1977 in the SRS Building, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Vince Caciari, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen
 John Doyle, Secretary

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
 Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

John 'Jack' McGlynn was unable to attend due to a conflicting schedule.

The minutes of the September 16, 1977 meeting were read and amended as follows: "The Board feels that in all fairness to all applicants for positions with the Veterans Affairs Division recommendations from the service officers or staff are not in order. This places the Board in a precarious situation when hiring the best man and leaves themselves open to criticism from the other applicants." The minutes were approved as amended.

Dave Armstrong mentioned that Ruddy Reilly felt there was a great deal of immaturity in Kenneth Maki, the new trainee in Great Falls. Since Kenneth Maki has been on the job such a short time the Board felt that he should be given more time to adjust.

Ernest Kandas reported to Dave Armstrong that he was having difficulty with the location of the office in Havre due to the stairs because of the elderly and disabled and the fact that occasionally the door is locked and clients cannot get in to see him. There are two other locations that may be available and Ernest has been instructed to look into them. The Board felt that if the Havre office did move the only reason that need be given is the danger of the stairs for the elderly and handicapped.

The letters from applicant James Hays were discussed and the letter in response to these by Vince Caciari was read. The Board's feeling was unanimous that the letter should be written to the Governor and the Governor could forward a copy to Hays and his administrator at his own discretion.

Dave Armstrong reported on the National Directors Association meeting in Reno, Nevada. It was a fine meeting and has been improving greatly over the recent years.

The letter from Human Services was then discussed as regards to doing away with the Board and the Veterans Affairs Division. The motion was made by John Grauman that Dave Armstrong get in touch with the head of the Interim Committee's Study Group at his convenience and discuss the proposals with him in person. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Doyle after hearing Bill Heikkinen's request that he be allowed to continue as service officer until December, 1978 if he should become the new American Legion Department Commander. Mr. Heikkinen plans to retire on December 31, 1978. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.


A motion was made by John Doyle at a copy of the minutes of the Board meeting be sent to the absent Board member so he will have some idea as to the business the Board handled at the meeting he was unable to attend. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

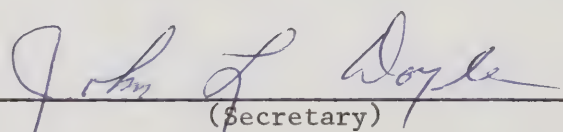
A motion was made by John Grauman that the claims through October, 1977 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Joe Henderson was then called in before the Board. The Board requested Joe Henderson to justify the overage in his travel claims discovered by the Legislative Auditors. Mr. Henderson replied that the travel was to shut-in's, nursing homes, etc. He did travel past 5:00 p.m. at his own option as the Board has been unable to obtain funds for overtime and he did not put in for this time nor record it on his travel claims. He felt that he was truthfully entitled to the monetary amounts that he put in for as he did take mileage readings before and after his trips. Since then he has been advised that the claims should be submitted in another manner and is endeavoring to keep a log now. Several specific trips were taken as examples and an explanation was requested. Mr. Henderson could not on the spur of the moment say exactly where he had traveled the extra mileage on that trip and the documentation he previously submitted did not indicate where the extra miles were to and for what purpose. Mr. Henderson closed with a statement that he did not at any time intend to claim any mileage that he was not entitled to and he still does not feel that he did. The Board requested a copy of the tape recording of hearing from Joe Henderson which he stated he would supply.

Mr. Henderson was then dismissed and the Board decided that the attached letter be sent to Joe Henderson.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn at 3:40 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

November 21, 1977

Mr. Joe Henderson
1211 Grand Avenue
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Joe:

The Board of Veterans Affairs had directed me to inform you that because you received travel reimbursement for more miles from January, 1974 thru January, 1977 than you are able to document they feel you are morally obligated to reimburse the State of Montana for any amount you cannot document.

Unless your reimbursement or documentation is received at this office within two weeks the Board feels that you should submit your resignation.

Sincerely,

David W. Armstrong, Jr.
Administrator

DIAJ:rkt

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on February 24, 1978 at 10:00 a.m. in the SRS Building, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Vince Caciari, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
John Doyle, Secretary
John 'Jack' McGlynn, Member

David W. Armstrong Jr., Administrator
Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

John Sloan, DAV-Montana

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflicting schedule.

The minutes of the November 18, 1977 meeting were read and approved as read.

It was noted that the Havre office location had apparently resolved itself as Ernest Kandas had not mentioned having difficulty with the door being locked.

Ken Maki is doing much better but signs of immaturity are still present. The Board felt that he should be given a little more time.

Joe Henderson's travel claim excess has been resolved ~~was~~ he has decided to pay back the entire amount on a bi-weekly payroll deduction.

John Grauman made a motion that the claims through January 31, 1978 be approved. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

Dave Armstrong reported that the Human Resources Interim Committee is having considerable opposition from the Governor's Office, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Institutions and all other agencies involved except Social & Rehabilitation Services. All the Depts. having opposition to the plan contend the Federal programs can not operate under such a plan. A motion was made by John Doyle that Dave Armstrong write up a resolution on behalf of the Board and the Veterans Affairs Division, to be distributed to each of the service organizations regarding our Board and Agency being allowed to continue as it has in the past and request the support of the veterans organizations during Legislature. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

John Sloan, DAV, presented his request that the two secretaries, now being paid under contracted services-one in the DAV office and one in the VFW office, become state employees and entitled to all such benefits of a state employee. Mr. Sloan claims this was done in the past and since these girls are doing the same work as our secretaries they should be paid on the same level. These contracts were paid by the Veterans Welfare Commission for years and then were transferred to the Board of Examiners for several years and then reverted back to the Veterans Affairs Division during one of the sessions of Legislature. Discussion of the legal difficulties the Board had at that time were discussed and John Sloan's request that the secretaries become full-time state employees with monthly or quarterly reports of their duties being submitted was then opened to general discussion.

A DAV delegation in support of this was then presented to the Board-they were as follows:

Bruno Lencioni
Joe Kissock
Antone Jursnick
Maureen Jursnick

Dave Armstrong mention that at this time there is no money in our budget to do this and since the Legislature is the only body that can appropriate money no immediate solution is available.

After considerable discussion a motion was made by John McGlynn that the Board being in favor of employing the secretaries for the DAV and VFW approach the Governor's Office and that Dave Armstrong approach Pat Melby, SRS Director, in regards to them being picked up by the Dept. for the remainder of this biennium until 7-1-79 at which time with the support of the service organizations we would have been able to appropriate in our budget for the two secretaries salaries and benefits for the next biennium. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

Dave Armstrong Advised that we would only be able to put in our budget for salaries and benefits so if we did not receive this appropriation then there would be no money in contracted services to continue paying the contracts.

Dave Armstrong reported on his trip to Washington D. C. for the Rehab. Conference. It seems that rumors are strong that veterans preference is going to come under attack and may be changed by executive order rather than by Legislation. Also the rumor was circulating that the 60 bed nursing care unit for Fort Harrison has been wiped out but Dr. Chase said there was no basis for such rumors. Max Baucas was going to check further and let us know for sure.

A letter commending William Heikkinen and Thomas Hamilton from Col. Edward G. Sperry, Ret. USAF, was then read to the Board by Dave Armstrong. The Board felt it was nice to occasionally get letters of this nature as so often people do not bother to write when they are satisfied with the services provided.

Dave Armstrong Brought to the attention of the Board that the Board of Regents, Montana University System has interpreted the law to say that veterans are no longer eligible for waiver of tuition and fees in the Montana University system. The Montana Federation of Teachers has passed a resolution to support legislation on continued waiver of tuition and fees for Montana veterans no longer having any GI Bill entitlement. The service organizations are aware of this and will support the Montana Federation of Teachers in getting this benefit re-instated.

The meeting was then adjourned for lunch to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

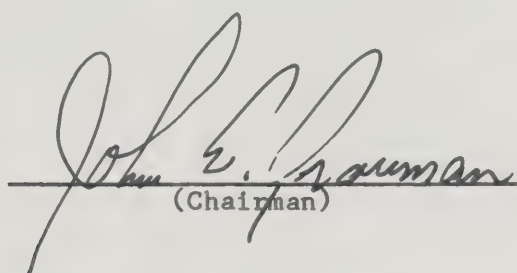
The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. and Mr. Joe Monahan from the Governor's Office was also attending this section of the meeting.

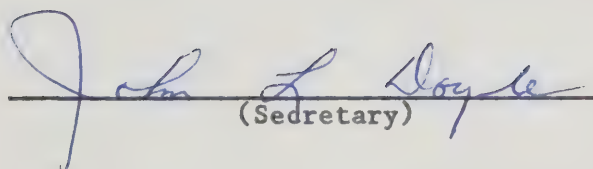
The Board members, John Sloan, and the DAV delegation had discussed with Governor Thomas Judge the possibility of SRS paying the two secretaries (one DAV and one VFW) in the SRS budget until 6-30-79. The Governor indicated that he would contact Pat Melby, SRS Director, in this regard and could see no reason why it couldn't be done.

John McGlynn made a motion that the Board again advise the Governor of the continued interest in the Twin Bridges facility being converted into a domiciliary for veterans. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

Chairman Vince Caciari appointed John 'Jack' McGlynn as the representative from the Board to attend the DAV Convention on 5-18-78 in Helena, Montana in his stead.

A motion was then made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

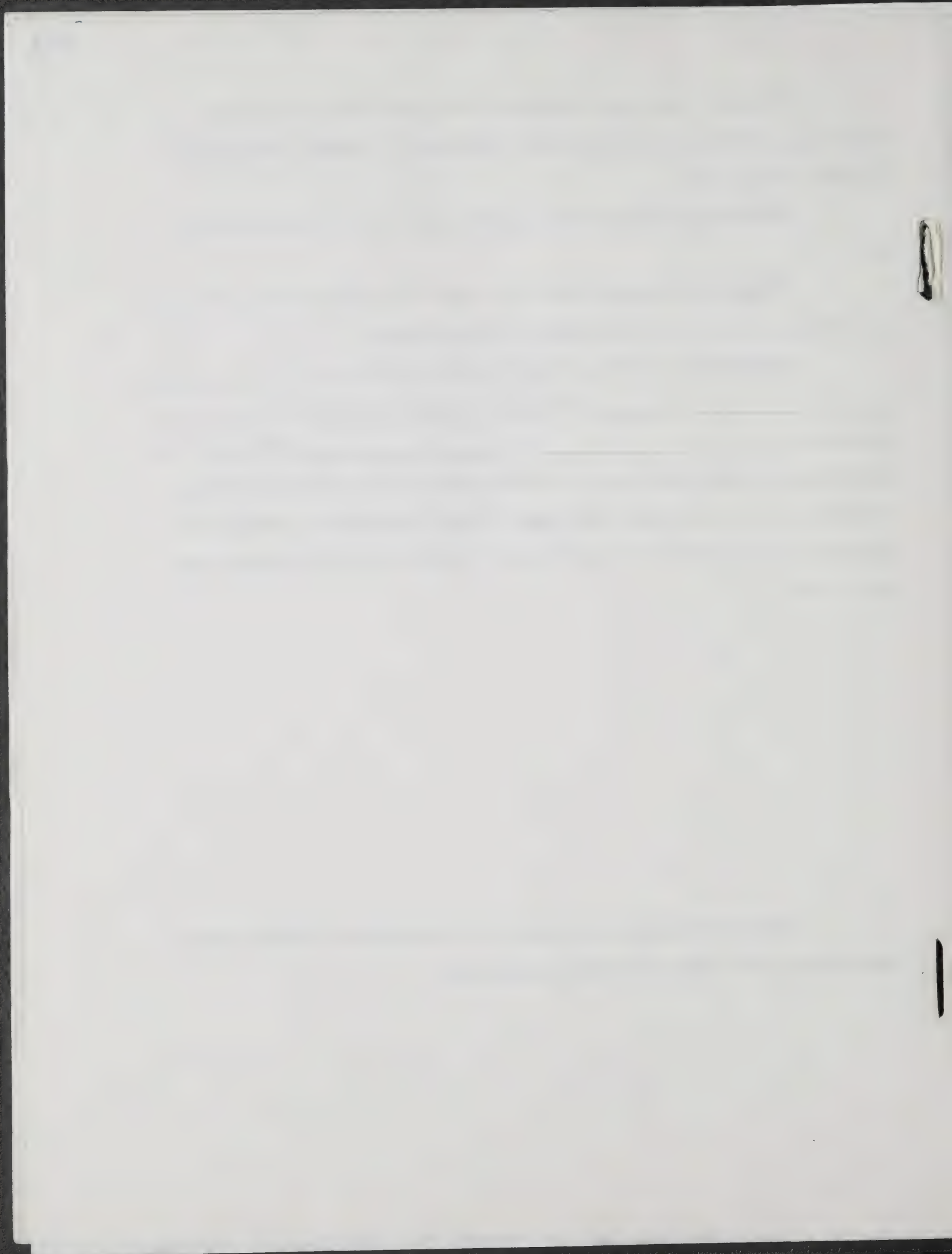
WHEREAS it has been proposed by the Interim Committee on Human Services to introduce a bill in the 1979 Legislature to create a Department of Human Services and

WHEREAS said proposal would abolish the Board of Veterans Affairs and

WHEREAS said proposal would also place the Veterans Affairs Division as a Bureau in the to be created Family Services Division

THEREFORE let it be resolved that the members of the _____
_____ Department of Montana District # _____
convened at _____ on _____ 1978 request the
Legislature to attach the Board of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Affairs
Division to the to be created Department of Human Services for Administrative
purposes only as provided for under Section 82A-1905, Executive Reorganization
Act of 1971.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION IS SUGGESTED FOR ADOPTION BY DISTRICTS and/or
DEPARTMENTS OF THE VARIOUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS.



A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on June 16, 1978 in Miles City at 708 Palmer with the following members present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman
John Doyle, Secretary
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Member

Vince Caciari, Chairman, was unable to attend due conflicting schedules.
John 'Jack' McGlynn was unable to attend due to illness.

Also present were: Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec
 Albert Miron, Service Officer
 Robert Ruhl, Service Officer
 Arnold 'Skip' McLees, Service Officer

The Board then conducted interviews of the following applicants for the position of Service Officer Trainee for Great Falls.

Francis A. Sibert
Richard Kruger
Clayton Memmott
Harry Taylor
Carl Clark
James Walker
James O'Neill
Jose D.A. Martinez

Upon completion of the interviews John Grauman, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.(noon.)

Clarification of John Doyle's status as a member of the Board was received from the Governor's Legal Staff and they advised that he would continue to serve as a Board member until such time as the Governor's office officially notified him and the new appointee of the new appointment. There being a quorum the Board continued the meeting with its regular business.

John Doyle made a motion that the minutes of the February 24, 1978 meeting stand approved as read. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made that the claims from February 1, 1978 to May 31, 1978 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board was advised that Bill Heikkinen is still going to retire and the end of 1978. The Board decided to table this until a later date and they would accept applications for employment at that time.

A motion was made by John Doyle that the Veterans Affairs Division obtain office space for the Havre office and authorized payment for this space. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen that Dave Armstrong submit a letter to the Governor on behalf of the Board requesting ~~that~~ the membership for Dave Armstrong in NASDVA be retained because it is the only such organization available. The motion was seconded by John Doyle and carried.

Dave Armstrong's request to attend the NASDVA Convention in Pennsylvania on 8-27-78 was considered. A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen to allow Dave to attend this Convention. The motion was seconded and carried.

Copies of the preliminary budget were then studied by the Board, for the 1980-81 biennium. The Board was advised that the salary figures were on the 1979

matrix so might change when notice was received of what the allowed increase might be. We were allowed only a 6% increase in operating costs and had not at this point received any further guidelines. The Board felt that these figures would be acceptable and would act on the entire budget during their July, 1978 meeting.

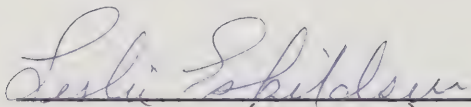
The Board then held the election for re-organization. A motion was made that John Grauman become Chairman, John McGlynn, Vice Chairman and Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board then discussed the various applications received for the service officer trainee position. After much consideration and discussion John Doyle made a motion to hire J. Harry Taylor of Malta for the position. In the event that Mr. Taylor should refuse their next choice was James O'Neill, Cascade followed by Philip Fite. This motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn with the next meeting to be held on July 21, 1978 in Helena. The motion was seconded and carried.



(Chairman)



(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on July 21, 1978 at 10:00 a.m. in the SRS Building, Rm. 210, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

John McGlynn Vice Chairman
Vince Caciari, Member
Neil Shepherd, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Ben Johns, SRS Director's Office
Ron Weiss, Dept. of Admin., Budget Office
Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary, was unable to attend.

Ben Johns and Ron Weiss were introduced to the Board. Ron Weiss gave a presentation on what the Governor expected from vacancy savings and explained how the Budget Office arrived at the \$29,000.00 figure that the Veterans Affairs is expected to save by not hiring new employees in 1979. The Budget Office re-iterated several times that the Governor's Office and the Budget Office's intention is not to force any agency to lay off people to save this money but an effort should be made to try whenever and where ever possible to save it. If the job is a critical one to the agency, application can be made to the Budget Office and they will consider allowing us to replace the individual. It must be shown that the job is critical and that by not replacing the individual services to that area would be seriously curtailed and this is not the intent of the Governor. Originally they projected that the Veterans Affairs Division had to save \$40,000. but then gave back \$11,000. The \$29,000. has been taken out of our appropriation and put in escrow and if later we find we need it because of no vacancy saving we can apply to have the funds released. Ron Weiss of the Budget Office felt that there would be no problem at that time in getting it back but until such time as it is actually needed application for it to be returned can not be made.

Ron Weiss was made aware of the fact that the only way we could save that much money was to curtail travel right now and lay off at least two and possibly three of our employees within the next month or so.

The minutes of the June 16, 1978 meeting were read and approved as read.

Havre office space will be available by no later than 10-1-78 at \$5.40 per foot plus utilities. This would be in with the Vocational Rehabilitation offices in Havre and is on the main floor of the building so stairs, etc. will be no problem.

The new budget for 1980-81 was then discussed. It was brought to the Board's attention that the new budget did not ask for a secretary for Havre or a Service Officer Trainee for Billings. The two secretaries for the service organizations at Fort Harrison are included but the other requests have already been denied. If the Legislature does not approve the \$24,000. for the two secretaries at Ft. Harrison there was no way to make provisions to get back the money for contracted services. The service organizations will just not receive any aid from the state for the secretaries salaries. A motion was made by Neil Shepherd that the budget be approved as proposed. Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it carried.

The contract for the new secretary for the DAV at Ft. Harrison was then submitted for signatures by the Board. Dave Armstrong advised the Board that the

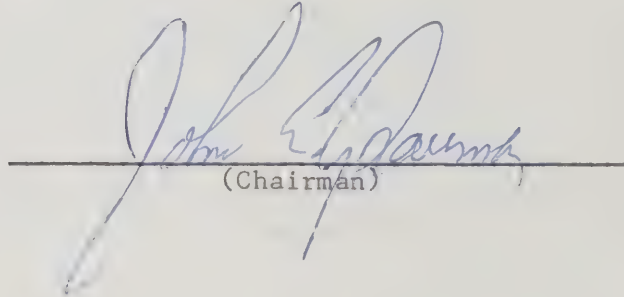
Legal Unit of SRS had looked at these contracts and they recommended that they not be signed because they did not meet the minimum wage requirements, had no Social Security, PERS or other employee benefits. A motion was made by John McGlynn that the contract be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Vince Cacairi, to support an expansion at the Montana Soldiers Home in Columbia Falls. He also recommended that the Board approach the Governor to see if he will give special consideration during the next Legislature to obtain these funds during the next bi-ennium. The committee is composed of Vince Caciari, John McGlynn and Neil Shepherd. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John McGlynn to bring the secretaries and service officers in for the training session held in October or November, 1978 at Fort Harrison. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

There being no further business a motion was made to set the date of the next meeting for September 15, 1978 at 10:00 a.m. in the state office, Helena, Montana. The motion was seconded and carried.

Neil Shepherd made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on September 15, 1978 at 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 210 SRS Building, Helena, Mt. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Grauman with the following members present:

John 'Jack' McGlynn Vice Chairman
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary
 Vince Caciari, Member
 Neil Shepherd, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

The minutes of the July 21, 1978 meeting were read and approved as read.

A motion was made by Vince Caciari that the claims for June, July and August 1978 be approved. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

Due to the Governor's schedule the committee was unable to meet with the Governor in reference to nursing care beds at Columbia Falls and the use of the Twin Bridges facility as a domiciliary and nursing care unit. Further attempts would be made by the committee members to meet with the Governor prior to opening of the Legislative session in January, 1979.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that a nursing home was built at Glendive entirely with state funds, a 40 to 60 bed unit. Money was allocated for two but only the one has been built and the state has been unable to get anyone to operate it on a non-profit margin. The Board discussed this matter further and decided to study the feasibility of obtaining this facility for veterans and have it administered in the same manner as the Soldier's Home at Columbia Falls, Montana.

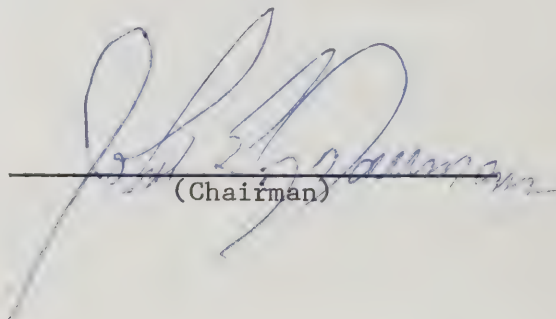
Dave Armstrong advised the Board that an informational session was held with Ron Weiss of the Budget office and he or his office was having second thoughts about actually hiring the two secretaries at Ft. Harrison as state employees. Further studies would be done and possibly they would again be put in contractual services and the fees paid to the service organizations. The result would be the same except they would not be state employees. It was also noted that they may put the service officer trainee back in for the Billings area. It seems that many veterans from that area are writing to the Governor.

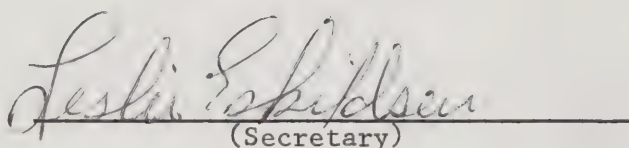
A motion was made by Jack McGlynn that a request to the Governor be made with a copy of the request to the Dept. of Institutions that the nursing home in Glendive be opened for veterans and funds for maintenance be granted by the Legislature. It should also be explained that the VA would subsidize the patients. This facility should also be run by the Dept. of Institutions. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that there is a bill in Congress that would allow the VA funds for state cemeteries but there is no move for a national cemetery in Montana. The closest one will be in Denver, Colorado. Joe Eskildsen made a motion that the Board go on record as supporting a State Veterans Cemetery subsidized by the VA and that the state be prepared to participate. This motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

The Board commented that if the Annual Refresher Training Session at Ft. Harrison was not conducted better than last year there wouldn't be any reason to bring in our staff. Either we would have to take the training sessions over and run them ourselves or have the service organizations run them.

The next meeting of the Board will be at the annual refresher training sessions on 10-20-78 at 8:15 a.m. with the S. O. Staff and a business meeting will be conducted in the afternoon. There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Friday, Oct. 20, 1978 at 1:30 p.m. in the State Office. The meeting was called to order by John Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

John McGlynn, Vice Chairman
 Leslie Eskildsen, Secretary
 Neil Shepherd
 Vince Caciari

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

Roxie K. Thomas, Admin Sec.

The minutes of the September 15, 1978 meeting were read and approved as read.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that we were no longer effected by vacancy savings but any money saved by not immediately filling a position could not be used because the \$29,000.00 is still in escrow. Harry Taylor, Veterans Service Officer Trainee, submitted his resignation effective 10-20-78 so we again have a vacancy in Gt. Falls for a trainee.

John McGlynn made a motion that the claims be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Neil Shepherd to accept Bill Heikkinen's retirement resignation effective 12-22-78. This position would not be filled until the terminal leave has all been paid. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Jack McGlynn that Dave Armstrong advertise an immediate opening in Great Falls for a Service Officer Trainee, Grade 8. Applications will be taken until 11-24-78 at which time Dave will send each member of the Board copies of the applications and they will rate them and return their decision to Dave. The interviews will then be conducted by Dave Armstrong the two Board members closest to the area of hire. After the interviews the two members and Dave will discuss the applicants and decide which would be the best man for the job and hire him. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong mentioned that he had notified the Military Order of the Purple Heart about the fund raising gimmick going on in Montana but to this point has received no word as to whether they plan to do anything about it or not. This has caused some concern by all parties inadvertently involved.

In discussing hiring policy by the Board it was decided by the Board that since we have a career ladder of sorts the Service Officer Positions will be advertised within our agency first and if any of our employees (qualified) wish to transfer to another location they would have first opportunity to do so. If no one in the agency is interested in re-locating then public advertising would be done with a deadline to submit the applications and the Board would review the applications by mail with their comments and return the comments to Dave, then he (Dave) and the two closest Board members would conduct the interviews and make the final decision with the other members comments notated.

Dave Armstrong will call the next meeting of the Board or the members available during Legislature for the Budget hearings. We would also notify the DAV, American Legion, and VFW of when our hearing will be held.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.

John E. Brennan
(Chairman)

(Secretary)

A regulary scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Saturday, January 20, 1979 in the state office in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John R. Grauman, Chairman, with the following members present:

John 'Jack' McGlynn, V. Chairman
Vince Caciari
Neil Shepherd

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec.

Guests included: Mr. John Sloan, DAV
Mr. Robert Durkee, VFW
Mr. Valter Marshall, VFW Legis. Chairman
Mr. Hugh 'Tony' Cumming, American Legion
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary, was unable to attend.

The minutes of the October 20, 1979 meeting were read and approved as read.

Vince Caciari made a motion that the claims through December, 1978 be approved. The motion was seconded by Jack McGlynn and carried.

It was noted by Dave Armstrong that the Attorney General brought down a decision against allowing the Board of Regents to change the law on waiver of fees for veterans in Montana University System schools.

The Attorney General has also ruled that the County Clerk of Court can not waive the fee for copies necessary to support a claim before the Veterans Administration. To date this has not created any problems but it could become very costly in the future as we do not have funds in the budget for this type of expenditure.

Jack McGlynn was requested by the Chairman of the Board to attend the VFW Mid-winter meeting in Great Falls as the Board's representative.

Dave Armstrong reported to the Board that the Legislative Auditor found only minor technical discrepancies in the accounting system but they felt that the \$50.00 fee to the Secretary member of the Board was not legal. A motion was made by Vince Caciari that the Secretary member of the Board continue to receive the \$50.00 monthly fee as it has been historically done since 1923 and no previous indication has ever been given to its not being legal. The motion was seconded by Jack McGlynn and carried.

Dave Armstrong requested permission to attend the American Legion National Conference in Washington, D. C. as the American Legion will sponser the expense of the trip and if he doesn't take this opportunity to go because of budget limitations he would be unable to attend any of the Rehabilitation conferences. A motion was made by Neil Shepherd that Dave Armstrong be allowed to go to the Legion Rehab. Conferences in February. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

Dave Armstrong mentioned that the employee who had shown an interest in transferring from Miles City to Missoula upon the termination of annual and sick leave has since made other arrangements and now prefers to stay in Miles City. There is a possibility that our service officer in Bozeman will apply for the position but this is still uncertain and we will know within a week. If he also is not interested in moving then the job will be advertised to the public, as per the Board's policy. It was also noted that because

on personal reasons the Havre office has been closed for the past week and would be closed for the coming week at which time the service officer would again be in that area on a full time basis.

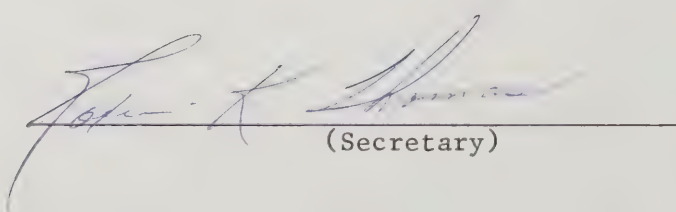
For the purpose of clarification the budgeting process was explained to the Board members and guests. The initial budget as approved by the Board of Veterans Affairs was discussed and copies were distributed. Copies of the Executive Budget were also distributed which differ from the original proposal. The budget as proposed by the Fiscal Analyst with his comments was then discussed and comparisons were drawn. The general feeling was that if we did not at least receive the funds requested in all areas we would not be able to continue to service the state as we had in the past and with the restrictions that would be put on our funds it would be impossible to keep service at a current level. The expenses continue to climb and our budget does not have that much allowance for any emergencies that may occur so offices would just have to remain vacant and service be discontinued until the money proposed to be saved by Veterans Affairs was saved. If no one quits we would be in trouble. Many alternatives were discussed.

John 'Jack' McGlynn made a motion that the Board continue to support their original budget appropriation with the two secretaries carried as additional FTE's at the rate of \$19,355.00 in FY 1980 and \$19,806 in FY 1981 along with the other projections and if they can't be paid by FTE then the increased amount to bring the two secretaries to the same level of the field secretaries should be continued in contracted services. As long as we are liable for their employees benefits we should have the funding to pay for it. Letters should be sent to the Director, Department of SRS; Governor and the Finance Sub-Committee along with copies of the different budget proposals and with the clear understanding that the only budget the Board feels they can support is their original request. All members feel they would like to meet with the finance committee personally to express their views and opinions and are requesting that a hearing be set up for them to present their contentions. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

A motion was made by Jack McGlynn that in the event a bill was introduced to do away with the tax relief for 100% service connected veterans a letter should be sent showing the Boards full support of the current law. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn with the next meeting to be held for the hearing of the budget committee. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

John Grauman, Chairman, Board of Veterans Affairs, called to order the regular meeting of the Board at 9:45 a.m., March 9, 1979 with the following members present in the State Office, SRS Building, Helena, Montana:

John 'Jack' McGlynn, Vice Chairman
 Vince Caciari, Member
 David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

Neil Shepherd and Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen were unable to attend.

Jack McGlynn made a motion that the Veterans Affairs Division check into having SRS furnish secretaries for the service organizations at Fort Harrison. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting with the Joint Sub-Committee on Appropriations was discussed at length and many possible suggestions were presented. The pros and cons of Senator Regans' or the committees suggestions were discussed and alternatives to hiring or not hiring any new employees was also discussed. If, in fact, we can't replace the service officer in Missoula Vince Caciari suggested that the secretary in Missoula be upgraded to a service officer. It was noted that she is not a veteran, but her husband probably is. If the secretary was upgraded we would still have a vacancy and would SRS consider allowing us to use their district office secretary when necessary. The Board noted that indications from the Sub-Committee's investigations were that Marylee Steadler, secretary in Missoula, is doing an excellent job and therefore a service officer may not be necessary since the itinerant services are being maintained by the secretary from Missoula and the service officer from Kalispell.

The Board felt that the intent of the Sub-Committee's recommendations were that we would just not replace any staff during the next bi-ennium and this would in effect by attrition do away with the Veterans Affairs Division.

The recommendation of a county service officer set up was discussed in terms of possible costs even if only part time in most areas. The Board felt some doubt about dual capacity jobs because they could foresee where the veteran or his dependents might not get the benefits or service they are entitled too. It was felt that speculation at this point as to the real intent of the sub-committee's recommendations were not possible because we had no specific guide lines and the general outlines are just too broad to contemplate. When the recommendations from the committees are received and information is obtained by Dave Armstrong from Keith Colbo's office it would be more feasible to discuss this further. The proposal, it was felt, has some interesting possible side effects.

The Legislative Fiscal Analysts Report was then discussed. A motion was made by Vince Caciari that the \$50.00 fee to the Secretary member of the Board be discontinued completely, indefinitely. The motion was seconded and carried. Copies of the two pages of the report effecting Veterans Affairs would be sent to the members of the Board not present.

A motion by Jack McGlynn was made that the Board, Dave Armstrong, and Keith Colbo, Director SRS, comply with the recommendations of the Joint Sub-Committee and conduct the study of the feasibility of job sharing in each county of a service officer and secretarial staff. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Vince Caciari to approve the claims through January 31, 1979. The motion was seconded and carried.

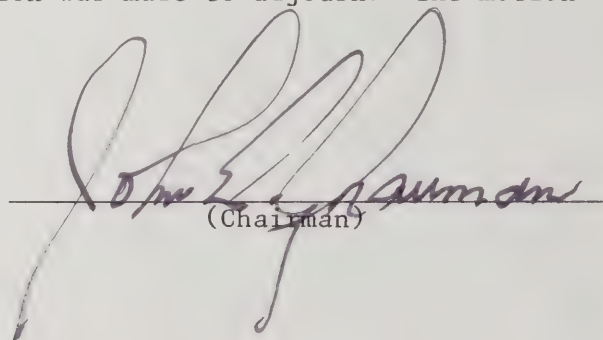
Dave Armstrong was directed to confer with Keith Colbo's staff, at his convenience and let the Board know what his ideas and thoughts were on implementing

the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor, as to what action we can take and SRS can take to comply with the report. This was made in the form of a motion by Jack McGlynn, seconded and carried. It was noted that since we are attached for administrative purposes only it does create problems.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that the reason for his clarifications of the request for information this morning was because at the first hearing with the Sub Committee they requested information on our appeals and that information was not available at that time because he didn't have the figures with him. The figures are as follows: Since January, 1977, we have submitted 407 appeals, 79 have been denied, 37 Remanded, 17 allowed and 133 pending. This is an area that records were never previously kept because no one had ever specifically asked for them prior to 1977. At that time we started keeping these records. It was also mentioned at this point that we became aware that our field staff had been refusing to give out statistical information and they have been advised by written directive that statistical information has always been available to anyone. The only information that the Right to Privacy Act covers is individual information and this they are not at liberty to give out.

The Board then took a look at the employees in general, anticipating that in the next few years we would probably be having several retirements. This would not effect us in this next bi-ennium but during the following one there will be approximately 5 or 6 retirements. If we are not allowed to budget administratively for their terminal (annual & sick) leave these areas will be without services for roughly 3 to 5 months or until the leave is used up. This is something that the Board felt they would have to keep in mind for the next budget.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)

(Secretary)

MONTANA BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

A G E N D A

May 11, 1979 Meeting

Minutes of Friday, March 9, 1979 meeting. (mailed-changes or approved as stand)

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget \$354,787 & \$358,567
Legislature

NEW Business:

Furniture PURchase order
Approval of Claims
Resignations of Personnel (Sec. Bozeman & Billings)
Distribution of personnel (Proposals by DWA)
Contract for DAV (ending 6-30-79)
Contracts for next biennium with VFW & DAV (terms should include
method of monthly report of services provided)

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 10, 1918

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows, appearing to be a memorandum or official communication.]

[Handwritten signature]

TO
Joint Sub Committee on Appropriations
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

FROM

STATE OF MONTANA
Social & Rehabilitation Services
Box 1333x5210
XXXXX 5428
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

Division Veterans Affairs

SUBJECT

DATE

MESSAGE: Minutes of Sub-Committee Meeting with BVA

March 15, 1979

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes you requested. If I have made any errors in interpretation please let me know and I will amend the minutes to read as they were intended. If you would send me the statistical data referred to in the minutes they would be complete and I would appreciate it greatly.

Thank you for your patience.

ORIGINATOR DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

REPLY TO

→ Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec. I

REPLY

ONE

DATE

SEND PARTS 1 AND 3 IN A 1-PART 1 WILL BE RETURNED WITH REPLY

RM-87

ORIGINATOR'S COPY

ORIGINATOR DETACH AND FILE FOR FOLLOW UP

The meeting of the Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee and Members of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held at 8:00 a.m. in the SRS 1st Floor Conference Room in Helena, Montana on March 9, 1979. The following individuals were present:

Steve Waldron, Chairman, Joint Sub-Committee
Rep. Bill Hand
Rep. Bob Marks
Senator Pat Regan
Senator Gary Aklestad
Keith L. Colbo, Director, SRS
Ben Johns, Asst. Director, SRS
Ron Wise, Budget Office
Kurt Nichols, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
John Grauman, Chairman, Board of Veterans Affairs
John 'Jack' McGlynn, Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans Affairs
Vince Caciari, Member
David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator, Veterans Affairs Division
John Sloan, DAV
Joe Kissick, DAV
Bob Durkee, VFW
Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec., Veterans Affairs Division
_____, Secretary

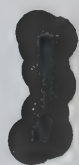
The meeting was called to order by Steve Waldron, Chairman, Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee commenting the purpose of the meeting was informational in nature only. The first item addressed was the Fiscal Analysts Report and their recommendation that the \$50.00 paid monthly the Secretary member of the Board and the fact that this was believed to be illegal. It was noted that since the last meeting of the Board a directive was sent out by John Grauman suspending these payments until the next meeting of the Board. The Committee advised the Board that they were not going to continue to fund this expenditure in the future. The Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee in their recommendations to the Legislature recommended that the \$50.00 monthly (\$600.00 annually) not be funded. The second item that they were going to recommend discontinuance of was the secretarial fees to the service organizations at Fort Harrison. Thirdly, when an employee of the division quits his position will not be filled. They will just remain vacant.

It was noted by Senator Pat Regan that the sub-committee was mandated to hold down costs and not to get the idea that Veterans Affairs fared any differently than any other state agency because they did not. They realize that Veterans Affairs only funding is from the State General Fund and therefore budget cuts will be more noticeable but they have to consider that the dollars spent for each program does the greatest good for all of the people of the state and not just one specific group.

Mr. Grauman commented that the Board had never intended to have an office in Havre but had requested an additional service officer for Billings for the last three Legislative sessions.

Senator Regan felt that some of the money could be taken out of the program because of the lack of delivery of services and that alternate methods for less dollar expenditures could be looked into. She also realized that the Board did not have anything to do with the particular incident of the Havre office. That was a purely political move by the Legislatures from that area and was not a matter of contention at this time.

Mr. Grauman addressed some of the problems confronting field staff in so far as distances to travel to contact clients and the amount of time it takes to complete a claim with the correct information. He also noted that there are an



ever increasing number of WW II veterans applying for pension and WW I veterans needing housebound or aid & attendance benefits. These also require extra travel sometimes because the individuals cannot get around. The physical locations of some of the offices was discussed and the fact that at one time our Billings service officer had to meet any disabled client in the parking lot because there was no way for them to reach the second floor except the stairs and in some cases this was just not possible. The office has since changed its location but we have had these problems in the past.

Senator Regan interceded at this point that for some reason not known to her everyone has drawn the conclusion that she is anti-veteran and she would like to clarify the record at this time because she is not. Her father, husband and brother are all veterans and consequently she is very veteran oriented but the State of Montana has always been very fair to its veterans. Senator Regan gave some specific statistics from Montana and surrounding states that she had compiled. Copies of any of this data is available from Senator Regan. She indicated that she would like to discuss the reporting process with Dave Armstrong later as she felt that a better method could be found that would be more factual. The current form used leaves something to be desired in that the reporting method is not completely clear.

Mr. Armstrong indicated that this was a new form that we had just started using in August, 1978 at the request of the Fiscal Analyst because the previous method was not approved by them. If any one has any suggestions for a better form he would be glad to listen.

Senator Regan continued that she thought a county service officer who did dual capacity work for VAD and other agencies in county offices part time would be able to do the job as efficiently and at far less expense, especially if the person was located in with other county or district offices and more than one program picked up the tab for salary of the person. In this way it might be possible to give better service to all veterans with co-ordination of services from Helena and whenever problems arose the staff in Helena and at Fort Harrison could lend the expert advise that is necessary.

Mr. McGlynn indicated at this point that he didn't think it was fair to always undermine the veterans programs and imply that we wasted money as usually we always have turned some of our money back.

Senator Marks reiterated that historically our budget has not decreased but has increased over the last several years with no additional services being done. He realized that a large (the greater) portion of the increase was due to increased costs and inflation but the State just doesn't have that kind of money to spend.

Mr. Sloan, DAV gave information regarding the two secretaries at Fort Harrison for the two service organizations. They in fact have historically been paid by state funds for the last 34 years. He sees no reason why this practice cannot continue.

Senator Regan said she had looked into the contracts and could not see how anyone could perpetrate such a wrong to any employee for so long and not do something positive to change it.

Mr. Sloan, DAV, continued that when the veteran wanted to change his power of attorney he should be allowed to do so and if he changed from the VAD to the American Legion the same people were still representing him, whereas if they changed to the DAV or VFW other individuals would be representing them.

Senator Marks commented that the State offers services through the VAD and fully subsidizes their appropriation and he can see no reason to hire (for the state)



two additional secretaries and assign them to the DAV & VFW. The State has filled its obligation to the veteran by funding the VAD and making the services available all over the state.

Mr. Grauman indicated that he could see the merits of Senator Regan's recommendations and agrees with them. (as regards to county service officers).

Senator Regan then went on to say that the State provides this service and any veteran has the freedom to choose such service but they are not under any compunction or compulsion to use it. If they want to use the states services, fine. If they do not that is their choice. The state will not continue to fracture these services.

The Legislative Auditor's report was discussed. They (the Auditors) reported that something should be done about payroll and accountability. Their suggestion is that the fiscal matters of Veterans Affairs be turned over to SRS's fiscal bureau for their handling. The rebuttal states that the fiscal bureau indicated that it would cost them an additional \$11,400 per year. Copies of the audit report could be made available for anyone who wants one.

The sub committee has discussed many different ideas on how to continue to provide the same service for a lower cost and many ideas have been suggested such as co-located offices and they can see where this has been done wherever possible.

The next item on the Legislative Auditor's report was the \$50.00 fee being paid the Secretary member of the Board.

Mr. Grauman interjected that after he received the letter from Mr. Colbo, Director, SRS he instructed Dave Armstrong to send out a directive to the members of the Board that this fee would be discontinued until further notice. He was not aware of the implications and since it had been done since 1919 and the legality had never been previously challenged the Board didn't take into serious consideration the possible implications.

Senator Marks in closing proposed that the Board look into the recommendations of the Joint Sub-Committee and work with Mr. Colbo, SRS Director, towards coming up with a workable solution to the sub-committee's proposals of job sharing and co-locating in county offices.

Senator Regan indicated that after this was researched during the next bi-ennium she would be very interested to see the results of the research and study. These are recommendations but they must be given very serious consideration because these costs just can not continue. If there is fear that the program will lose its identity that is not the intention and the individual would be hired by whatever method and still identified as a Veterans Service Officer but if there is one in each county a full time staff would not be necessary. He or she may only be part time and SRS could assign other duties and other program functions.

Mr. Colbo, Director SRS, pledges that his office would work with Mr. Armstrong and the Board toward developing such a program along the lines recommended by the Joint Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee moved that they request (a strong meaningful request) for the Board of Veterans Affairs to work with SRS and come back in two years with the recommendations. The VAD would work with SRS to formulate plans, specific time (quarterly reports), in other words as soon as possible and also suggest alternatives to address this issue.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The first part of the history of the United States is the period from the discovery of the continent by Christopher Columbus in 1492 to the establishment of the first permanent settlements in 1607. This period is characterized by the exploration of the continent by Spanish, French, and English explorers, and the establishment of the first permanent settlements in the eastern part of the continent.

The second part of the history of the United States is the period from 1607 to 1776. This period is characterized by the growth of the colonies, the struggle for independence from Britain, and the establishment of the United States as a new nation.

The third part of the history of the United States is the period from 1776 to 1865. This period is characterized by the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. This period is also characterized by the growth of the United States as a nation, and the establishment of the United States as a world power.

The fourth part of the history of the United States is the period from 1865 to 1914. This period is characterized by the Reconstruction era, the Gilded Age, and the Progressive Era. This period is also characterized by the growth of the United States as a nation, and the establishment of the United States as a world power.

The fifth part of the history of the United States is the period from 1914 to 1945. This period is characterized by World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. This period is also characterized by the growth of the United States as a nation, and the establishment of the United States as a world power.

The sixth part of the history of the United States is the period from 1945 to 1991. This period is characterized by the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the end of the Cold War. This period is also characterized by the growth of the United States as a nation, and the establishment of the United States as a world power.

The seventh part of the history of the United States is the period from 1991 to the present. This period is characterized by the end of the Cold War, the Gulf War, and the 9/11 attacks. This period is also characterized by the growth of the United States as a nation, and the establishment of the United States as a world power.

The eighth part of the history of the United States is the period from the present to the future. This period is characterized by the challenges of the 21st century, and the potential for a bright future for the United States.

M O N T A N A

Board of Veterans Affairs

and

Veterans Affairs Division

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED SERVICES

At the request of the Legislative Sub-committee on Appropriations, the following proposals are submitted as possible methods of upgrading and providing greater availability of service to veterans, their widows and orphans who might be eligible for benefits from the Veterans Administration of the United States and the states thereof.

In no way is it suggested that there would be a reduction in costs, in fact, it is felt more dollars would be expended although perhaps not from the General Fund specifically.

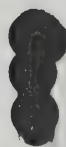
PROPOSAL #1

The State Office, the nine field offices-as district offices, and each county not having a district office would have part-time to full-time county service officers.

The state office would continue to provide administrative services of the Division as well as providing the accredited representation (by virtue of Power of Attorney) before the Veterans Administration. The state office would establish a formal training program for county service officers and would maintain a continuous informational publication program to keep them abreast of the changes in the laws.

The district offices would function in place of county service offices and would supervise and assist the county service officers in the district in providing accurate service to the claimants.

The county service officers would function on a part-time to full-time basis depending on the veterans population in the county. Secretarial assistance could be requested from the County Welfare Director's Office due to their



(2)

affiliation with SRS. Secretarial assistance needed could be from extremely limited to full-time.

Travel would be limited generally to the shut-in and on call to the other communities and reservations within the county. District service officers would travel to the county offices in the district to provide assistance, training and supervision. Travel also would be provided for training at a central location.

Funding for the state and district offices would be from the State's General Fund. County offices could be funded from the State General Fund, part State and part County, or all county.

PROPOSAL #2

Implement & research

The State office and the nine field offices to be augmented by the County Welfare Directors' designating an individual in each county office as a veterans contact point. This individual would make referrals to Service Officers and provide forms and informational pamphlets as needed.

No increase in funding would be anticipated.

PROPOSAL #3

The state office and the nine field offices to function as in Proposal #1.

In each county large enough to warrant the county Welfare Director to designate and assign one individual, preferably a veteran, to provide assistance to veterans and dependents as needed in the filing of claims with the Veterans Administration. In addition to other job functions. Each designated individual would be required to receive training prior to beginning service and at least annually thereafter.

Funding for training to be provided by the state office from the General Fund.

PROPOSAL #4

In order to expand outreach of proposals 1, 2 and 3 contracts through Aging Services with Senior Citizen Centers around the state to provide in each center a veteran who is a senior citizen to give basic assistance to



(3)

veterans and dependents one or more hours per week. Training and supervision to be provided by the Veterans Affairs Division. This program to be considered only as additional outreach and not the primary veterans program of assistance.

PROPOSAL #5

Establish a re-imbursement program whereby the veterans organizations would be encouraged to set up offices around the state for the purpose of providing assistance to veterans and their dependents. The re-imbursement would be on the basis of claims submitted to the VA. Adequate reporting and auditing procedures would have to be established. *Washington is doing 1/2 million*

PROPOSAL #6

\$ savings (tabled by Board)

Reduction and consolidation of present offices. This would be accomplished by attrition over a period of several years.

THE OFFICES to be RETAINED would be the State Office-Helena, and field offices at Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Kalispell and Miles City.

THE OFFICES to be SERVED by the consolidated offices would be:

BILLINGS-West to Livingston; North to White Sulphur Springs, Harlowton and

Round-up; East to Lame Deer and Forsyth.

BUTTE-East to Bozeman; South to West Yellowstone and Dillon; North to Drummond

GREAT FALLS-East to Malta & Lewistown; North to Shelby; West to Augusta and Browning.

KALISPELL-South to Missoula & Hamilton; West to Superior, Thompson Falls and Libby; East to Glacier Park

MILES CITY-North to Glasgow, Scobey, Plentwood & Wolf Point; South to Ekalaka and Broadus

PERSONNEL CHANGES WOULD ENTAIL THE FOLLOWING:

BOZEMAN-the service officer would be moved to Billings and the secretarial position dropped.

HAVKE-Service Officer to Great Falls

MISSOULA-Service Officer to Butte and secretary dropped.



(4)

WOLF POINT-Service Officer to Miles City and secretary dropped.

PROPOSAL #7

Request additional funds for at least double the current travel to increase the effectiveness of itinerant travel by Service Officers.

PROPOSAL #8

Combine^{or} any combination of the above proposals.

*Indicate how plan could be carried out
How to make all proposed as a State det.
(Lynn + Carlsson)*

DWAJ:rkt

5-10-79



review and document the eligibility of applicants may result in ineligible persons receiving services.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that SRS require social workers to:

1. Obtain a properly completed "Request for Services" form.
2. Complete and sign a certificate of eligibility prior to approving anyone for day care services.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS DIVISION

The SRS Veteran's Affairs Division was attached to SRS "for administrative purposes only" during executive reorganization. During our audit period the division had approximately 21.5 FTE and spent nearly \$283,000, all from the state's general fund. The division has a central office in Helena and eight field service offices throughout the state.

Accounting

The Veteran's Affairs Division retained control of its accounting and payroll functions when it was transferred to SRS. The division currently has one accountant who performs nearly all division accounting and payroll functions. This limited staffing causes serious weaknesses in internal control over the division's accounting records and transaction processing. The

most significant control weaknesses we found at the division are listed below.

1. The accountant performs all requisitioning, receiving, shipping, inventory control, accounting and document approval functions for expenditures made by the division.
2. The accountant prepares and approves payroll status forms, signs the prepayroll, and makes necessary changes on the prepayroll. We could find no documentation of additional review of these documents.
3. Division officials perform no supervisory review of biweekly time sheets.

In addition to the control problems noted above we found several significant problems in the accounting procedures and records at the division. Several of these problems are listed below.

1. In three instances we found errors in the division's accounting records that were caused by the accountant's lack of knowledge of the operations of the Statewide Budgeting and Accounting System.
2. Travel claims submitted by division employees were inadequately reviewed. Claims we reviewed contained errors in the computation of per diem amounts and inadequate explanations for mileage claimed.
3. Employee termination pay was improperly recorded in the accounting records.
4. Expenditure amounts which should have been accrued were not.
5. Personnel file documentation was inadequate.
6. Employees were not always required to submit leave requests for time off. A significant portion of the leave records we reviewed contained addition errors.

Because of the significance of the problems discussed above, all accounting and payroll functions of

the division should be transferred to the SRS Fiscal Bureau. This would be more efficient and would increase internal control over Veteran's Affairs Division transactions. The relatively small amount of additional work could be assumed by the Fiscal Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that SRS transfer all Veteran's Affairs Division accounting and payroll functions from the division to the Fiscal Bureau.

Supplemental Payments

The Veteran's Affairs Division currently makes \$50 per month supplemental payments to the Board of Veteran's Affairs member who is secretary of the board as compensation for duties performed in addition to those performed by the other board members. We could find no legal basis for these payments.

Section 82A-110, R.C.M. 1947, provides that compensation paid to members of advisory councils, which is the legal status of the Board of Veteran's Affairs, be limited to \$25 for each day they are actually and necessarily engaged in the conduct of council business. We could find no documentation of time spent by the board secretary over and above that spent by other board members.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that SRS discontinue making supplemental payments to the secretary of the Board of Veteran's Affairs.

CONTINGENT REVOLVING FUND

The department has an approved \$75,000 contingent revolving fund which it uses primarily to make first payments to eligible public assistance recipients. In addition to these first payments, the department uses the account to make emergency payments, small purchases requiring immediate payment, and some travel advances. During our review of controls over this account and payments made from it, we found several problems. These problems are discussed in the following sections.

Internal Control

During our testing of transactions in this account we found several significant weaknesses in existing internal controls. Some of these weaknesses are listed below.

1. The bank account is reconciled only once each month even though bank statements are received weekly and the procedures manual requires that reconciliations be made weekly.
2. There is no limitation on the amount for which single signature checks may be drawn.
3. The employee who reconciles the account does not review the checks for unusual endorsements.
4. Stale-dated checks are not written off promptly in accordance with established policy.

AGENCIES I - HUMAN SERVICES

	Fiscal 1980		Fiscal 1981	
	General Fund	Other Appropriated Funds	General Fund	Other Appropriated Funds
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS				
1. General Operations	1,210,099	2,963,187	1,213,023	2,969,383
2. Research and Information Program	<u>118,016</u>	<u>107,096</u>	<u>119,124</u>	<u>109,961</u>
Total Department of Community Affairs	1,328,115	3,070,283	1,332,147	3,079,344

The above appropriation of "Other Appropriated Funds" contains in fiscal 1980, \$43,580 and in fiscal 1981, \$44,452 from revenue generated under the provisions of 15-70-204 MCA relating to other than aviation gasoline and \$332,000 in fiscal 1980 and \$275,000 in fiscal 1981 from revenues generated under the provisions of 15-35-103 MCA and as allocated by 15-35-108 (2) (f).

General funds appropriated in item 2 shall revert to the extent that revenues from other sources exceed \$107,096 in fiscal 1980 and \$109,961 in fiscal 1981.

The accounting and management systems program shall end June 30, 1981. No budget request for this program will be submitted to the 1981 legislature.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	2,483,496	14,625,383	2,517,579	14,549,671
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Included in "Other Appropriated Funds" is \$118,000 each year received under authority of PL 93-641 which may only be expended if granted or contracted to local health departments.

Funds included in the above appropriations for study of nuclear radioactivity in the Butte area are not to be used to fund licensing programs.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

1. Employment Security Division		12,223,654		12,276,009
2. Workers' Compensation Division	948,536	3,573,692	955,098	3,603,301
3. Human Rights Division	65,091	100,000	105,091	60,000
4. Personnel Appeals Division	254,542	8,000	259,367	8,000
5. Labor Standards Division	327,364	406,827	336,754	418,305
6. Employment and Training Division		<u>1,116,517</u>		<u>1,160,992</u>
Total for Department of Labor and Industry	1,595,533	17,428,690	1,656,310	17,526,607

Any funds received by the human rights division in excess of \$100,000 in fiscal 1980 and \$60,000 in fiscal 1981 shall serve to cause reversion of general fund appropriated to the division on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

	Fiscal 1980		Fiscal 1981	
	General <u>Fund</u>	Other <u>Appropriated Funds</u>	General <u>Fund</u>	Other <u>Appropriated Funds</u>
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES	37,482,415	17,736,298	39,954,279	18,004,781

The above appropriations provide for increases in payments to foster parents and foster group homes of not less than 7½ percent in fiscal 1980 and 6 3/4 percent in 1981.

The above appropriation allows the addition of five eligibility staff to be employed in selected areas of the state. The department will report on the cost effectiveness of the added staff to the next legislature.

No funds included in these appropriations may be allocated for support of or use by the developmental disabilities Montana advocacy program.

The veterans affairs division is not authorized to hire any new individuals during fiscal years 1980 or 1981. Positions that become vacant during the biennium shall remain vacant.

The board of veterans affairs and veterans affairs division shall study alternatives for providing services to veterans that are more comprehensive and less expensive. The results of these studies shall be reported to the next legislature.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

	<u>1979</u> <u>Biennium</u>	<u>1981</u> <u>Biennium</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Increase</u>
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services			
General Fund	\$ 70,473,447 ¹	\$ 77,436,694	9.9
Other Funds	<u>34,876,898²</u>	<u>35,741,079</u>	<u>2.5</u>
Total	\$105,350,345	\$113,177,773	7.4
FTE	1,031.90	1,020.71	

1. Includes \$6,545,000 supplemental appropriation for fiscal 1979. This also includes funds which may be expected to revert in the amount of \$1,635,000 as a result of restrictions and reversionary clauses written in H.B. 145 which appropriated these funds in 1977.
2. Includes \$179,000 supplemental appropriation for fiscal 1979.

Assistance Payments: The committee recommendation allows \$31.5 million for aid to families with dependent children (AFDC). The payment rates are held at 80 percent of the poverty level (including food stamps). The poverty level rises with inflation. In the current biennium approximately \$27.7 million will be expended on these payments.

The foster care of children is expected to cost \$5.4 million in the biennium. The committee includes language in the bill that mandates increases of at least 7½ and 6 ¾ percent in fiscal 1980 and 1981 respectively for foster families and foster group homes. Foster families have received no increase in payments since 1975.

State supplements to persons living in group homes and foster homes is anticipated to cost nearly \$1.5 million in the biennium.

The committee allows nearly \$1.0 million for an improved computer operated eligibility system (MIMS). This system should reduce errors made in the determination of eligibility for AFDC, medicaid and food stamps. Telephone line rental costs and computer terminals previously running the social services reporting system (MSS) are transferred to this effort.

The committee also provides \$163,083 to centralize food stamp issuance. This program would work in conjunction with the previously mentioned computerized eligibility system.

Social Services: The committee provides for increases in day care rates of 30¢ per year for state licensed homes and 35¢ per year for federally licensed homes. Day care for non-working AFDC recipients will be paid as a part of the AFDC grant in the next biennium. Approximately 30 percent of day care currently paid by federal Title XX funds is for non-working AFDC recipients. This shift reduces general fund costs of day care.



Youth Development: The committee recommends elimination of funding for the Helena achievement home. This home has experienced chronic low occupancy. Also eliminated are payments to the state day care association and the foster parents organization.

Visual Services: The committee allows for costs increases in training and other services to rehabilitate the blind or visually impaired. The state funded visual medical services is held at \$50,000 per year.

Developmental Disabilities: The recommended appropriation allows for cost increases in current community programs and \$815,000 to place 44 individuals from Boulder and 16 individuals from Warm Springs into community homes and programs. Of that total amount, \$200,000 covers one-time start-up costs for group homes.

The committee allows \$1.0 million of medicaid federal matching funds to be used to expand community DD programs in the biennium. These funds will be used to provide day services to persons currently residing in nursing homes and possibly to pay for some group homes.

Three positions are eliminated that were dropped during the executive hiring freeze.

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council: The committee eliminates general funding for this council and continues it with \$150,000 per year of federal developmental disabilities funds. The committee also inserts language into the bill that prevents any funds being granted or contracted to the Montana Advocacy Program.

Aging Services: The committee eliminates Title XX funding of aging services programs and increases general fund support to over \$700,000 in the biennium. Just over \$550,000 general fund had been used in the current biennium with \$1.07 million of Title XX funds. Additional federal funds are received from the Older American Act.

The committee eliminates one position dropped during the executive hiring freeze.

Veterans' Affairs: The committee recommends 1) elimination of contracted secretaries that serve the DAV and VFW at Fort Harrison, 2) elimination of \$50 per month allowance paid the secretary of the board of veterans' affairs, 3) the division freeze hiring of new individuals in the biennium and evaluate alternatives for serving veterans that are less costly and more comprehensive than the current.

Concerns of the Committee

The committee recommended \$510,000 in the biennium for preadmission screening and development of alternatives for those who would be admitted to nursing homes. The department may add no more than eight full-time equivalent employees for this purpose.

The committee was concerned that in programs where recipients participate in costs, the department make efforts to assure such participation.

83 The committee expressed concern that the department monitor contracted services to insure that recipients are being adequately served and state funds are being efficiently and legally expended.

The committee met with the board of veterans' affairs. The board has agreed to explore alternatives to the current method of providing services to veterans. The committee has expressed concern that the current system is too expensive. The board of veterans' affairs terminates July 1, 1981 under provisions of the "sunset law" Title 2, Chapter 8, part 1, MCA.

Summary

The appropriation of general fund is \$2,258,586 above the legislative fiscal analyst's analysis and \$4,184,440 below the executive budget.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on May 11, 1979 at 10:00 a.m. in Helena in the SRS Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Grauman with the following members present:

John 'Jack' McGlynn, Vice Chairman
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Secretary
 Vince Caciari, Member
 Neil Shepherd, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

Roxie K. Thomas, Admin. Sec.

Hugh 'Tony' Cumming, American Legion
 Robert Durkee, VFW
 Keith L. Colbo, Director SRS
 Walter Marshall, VFW

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 9, 1979 meeting as distributed. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board was advised by Dave Armstrong that the final figures that the Legislature gave us for the next bi-ennium are 1980-81 \$354,787; 1981-82 \$358,567. This allows us to continue to pay the secretarial help of the two service organizations at the same rate as previously but does not allow us the money to hire another employee for the Missoula position. We did finally get the wording changed so that we could hire employees but the FTE for Missoula was not funded.

Robert Durkee, VFW, gave his presentation of what occurred during the past session of Legislature. As you all are aware veterans programs as a whole did not fair well during this last session. The bill containing (HB483) appropriations for Veterans Affairs language was finally changed so the Board could continue to hire employees when vacancies arose. The money (\$17,000) was put back in the budget but it was for the two years of the bi-ennium instead of each year. This was enough to cover the contracts with the service organizations but not enough to cover the FTE for Missoula. Chairman John Grauman directed Dave Armstrong to sign the new contracts with the service organizations on behalf of the Board and since Keith Colbo signs all other SRS contracts he should also sign these for uniformity. The Board felt that with the signature of the Division Administrator, Department Director and contracting authority of each organization the contracts should be considered valid.

Bob Durkee continued that Twin Bridges was lost because of the \$675,000 required from the Long Range Building Program for renovations and when HB243 came out of committee it first had a tie vote then a 23-25 vote against on the second reading. The veterans or veterans organizations could buy the building but who would they get to operate it so that they would eventually be able to apply for the VA benefits. Private organizations are not authorized to receive the federal money.

The nursing beds increase in Columbia Falls is still 39th on the list and unless the service organizations can work on each person on the Long Range Bldg Program it will probably remain there forever.

The hospital in Glendive is going to be utilized by the Dept. of Institutions for the retarded from Boulder.

To summarize, all in all the outlook during this past session for veterans looked pretty bleak. Income tax relief was uppermost on most Legislators minds and anything that took money out of the General Fund suffered for this attitude. Actually Veterans Affairs was probably lucky to come out as well as it did under the circumstances.

Keith Colbo was advised that the Board had directed that Dave Armstrong sign the contract for the service organizations on their behalf along with Mr. Colbo's signature to implement all future contracts with the service organizations. This would bring the Veterans Affairs into being uniform with the rest of SRS.

Mr. Colbo commented that it would be easier and since his office has some responsibility for all SRS contracts he will now be aware of our situation and at that time extended the use of the legal unit in assisting to draw up the new contracts under the new guidelines mandated by Legislature.

Mr. Colbo continued that the Division, as well as the Dept. of SRS as a whole, made available all the information that Legislature and the sub committee's requested but they did not take the time to utilize it. They were very negative about spending any general fund money this session.

Mr. Colbo again re-iterated his interest in working with the Board in assisting in any way possible to obtain the desired information for the Legislature and sending out necessary policy directives to the County Director's on implementation of any programs after they have been worked out.

A motion was made by Neil Shepherd that Dick Orman, Trainee from Gt. Falls, be transferred to Missoula. The motion was seconded by John McGlynn and carried. It was noted that Marilyn Wagner, the older trainee in Havre, was not interested in the transfer at this time.

A motion was made by Vince Caciari that the Bozeman Secretarial vacancy not be re-filled as the statistics do not prove a secretarial position is needed in that area. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

It was decided that a directive of the vacancy opening effective 7-1-79 in Billings would be advertised to the field secretaries until 6-1-79 and if none were interested in transferring then the job would be advertised. The only field secretary who might be interested was Yvonne Stennes of Wolf Point but she at least ought to be given the opportunity to put in for the job if interested. If Yvonne takes the Billings job that position would not probably need to be refilled either as statistics do not indicate enough work generated from that office. At this time no action would be taken until we had heard from the field secretaries about the Billings position.

Dave Armstrong then passed out copies of the proposals that he had come up with to date as Legislature has mandated that we continue to investigate the feasibility of a county service officer set-up or other alternatives. All of the proposals were discussed at great length and the Board felt that some of them had merit and others probably would not work at all. Further study was indicated for all of the proposals. The Board directed Dave Armstrong to implement Proposal #2 and continue to monitor the results. Dave Armstrong at this point indicated that he has taken steps to obtain statistical records that would indicate the county of residence so each Legislator could be made aware of the number from his own county utilizing the services of Veterans Affairs. Everyone felt that his was a good idea.

Since Sunset Legislation and an audit are upon us again it was felt that we should also take steps to again write up and introduce legislation to establish a Veterans Affairs Board and Division for the next session of Legislature. The Boards and Divisions that came under Sunset during this last session did this as a precaution because if they hadn't they would have just automatically been sunsetted at the end of the session as no action was taken on the proposals of the study committee. There is no specific rush as it is two years until the next Legislature and mostly it can just be copied verbatim from the law books.

The Board directed Dave Armstrong to write a letter to the Governor on their behalf expressing their concurrence with the VitNam veterans week of May 28 to June 3. The letter should be sent as soon as possible so the proclamation can go out. This week has already been designated by the President of the United States.

John Graumand called the next Board meeting for June 14, 1979 at 10:00 a.m. in Polson, Mt. in conjunction with the State VFW Convention. All Board members indicated they would be present as did Dave Armstrong as he had been invited to attend. Roxie Thomas was requested to attend the Board meeting for the purpose of taking the minutes.

Vince Caciari was directed by John Grauman to further investigate the possibility of obtaining space in the new county building when it is completed for the Veterans Affairs Division in Kalispell. Vince indicated that space should be available to us on the ground floor and would be considerably nicer than what we now have. Everyone felt that if we could obtain the space reasonably this would be a good idea.

The Board authorized the expenditure of the new furniture for Gt. Falls by the Purchase Order. The furniture in Great Falls is becoming so delapidated that it creates a hazard for the clients. The bid by Empire Office was at least \$400.00 below any other.

A motion was made by Vince Caciari to approve the claims paid through April, 1979. The motion was seconded and carried.

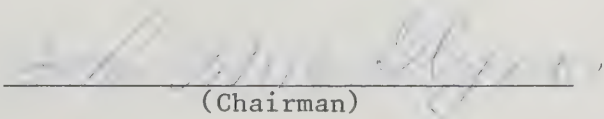
The Board was advised of the rent increase in Bozeman for the office was going from \$150.00 per month to \$175.00 per month. The Board felt that Bob Ruhl should be contacted and seek a more reasonable rent in another location. Since he will no longer have a secretary as much space should no longer be required either.

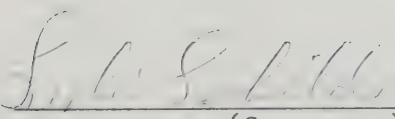
It was noted that by June 22, 1979 the Havre office should be moved into its new location at College Park Plaza, Suite 106A and would have a tie line phone in the office. They should not be out of phone service, etc. for more than one day. Hopefully, this will be the last move of the Havre office.

The Board directed Dave Armstrong to send letters of appreciation to Robert Durkee, VFW and Tony Cumming, American Legion for their outstanding support of veterans legislation and their considerable time spent in assisting with our budget during this past Legislative session.

A letter of appreciation should be sent on behalf of the Board by Dave Armstrong to Marylee Steadler for the work she has done in the past since Bill's retirement. She has done a wonderful job capably and that fact should be recognized.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Thursday June 14, 1979 at 1:00 p.m. in the VFW Hall, Polson, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John 'Jack' McGlynn, Vice Chairman, with the following members present:

Neil Shepherd, Member
Joe Eskildsen, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Roxie Thomas, Secretary

Vince Caciari and John Grauman were unable to attend due to other obligations.

Also attending were:

Harold Lind, VFW State Commander
Albert Miron, VFW and VAD Service Officer, Kalispell
Robert Ruhl, VFW and VAD Service Officer, Bozeman
William R. Heikkinen, Dept. Commander, American Legion

A motion was made by Joe Eskildsen to approve the minutes of the May 11, 1979 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong reported on the final figures for the new budget as mandated by the Legislature. He reported that the Legislature mandated the contracts for 79-80 for the service organizations would be \$8289 per year and the contracts would be worded as instructed by Legislature.

Joe Eskildsen made a motion to approve the claims through May, 1979. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

Neil Shepherd made the motion to hire Venne R Heimer to replace Gayle Mason in Billings. The motion was seconded and carried. It was noted that none of our secretaries were interested in moving at this time.

Dave Armstrong requested permission to attend the NASDVA convention held in San Antonio, Texas August 5 thru August 9, 1979. A motion was made by Neil Shepherd that Dave be allowed to go to this meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.

A report was then given on what has been done by the veterans organizations about the Twin Bridges facility. At present the organization is attempting to buy the facility and then turn it over to the county to run as a veterans home so it would eventually be eligible for the matching money and per diem from the Veterans Administration.

At this point it was noted by Dave Armstrong that the projected nursing beds at Fort Harrison have again been moved to a target date of 1987 so we are no closer to having more nursing beds in Montana than we were before.

Bob Ruhl asked to be allowed to obtain or have obtained a typing desk (table) for his office in Bozeman. It was felt that since he had moved into a smaller facility this was not an unreasonable request and if it was not too expensive he could be allowed to buy a typing table locally. He should attempt to obtain cost figures and let the Helena office know which he would prefer.

The nominations for re-organization of the Board for the coming year were as follows:

John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman

Neil Shepherd, Vice Chairman

Vince Caciari, Secretary

The motion to accept these nominations was made by Neil Shepherd, seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.

A motion was then made to adjourn with the next meeting to be called at the discretion of Chairman McGlynn. The motion was seconded and carried.

Some discussion then followed on the training session to be held this fall by the VA. The Board felt that the VA should be advised that they would like the time cut to one day with at least a 1½ to 2 hour discussion or question and answer period. It was also felt that October was the best suited month and with the half day session with the state staff and Board this would be sufficient. It was getting to the point that things were so redundant that there was some question whether it was worth the time and money spent or not. Dave should advise the VA of the Board's feelings so they would be better able to take the matter under consideration while the session was still in the planning stages.

John A McGlynn
(Chairman)

Vince Caciari
(Secretary)

a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held July 20, 1979 in Room 210, SRS Bldg., Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present:

Neil Shepherd, Vice Chairman
Vince Caciari, Secretary
John Grauman, Member
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Member

Dave Armstrong, Administrator
Roxie Thomas, Secretary

A motion was made by John Grauman to approve the minutes of the June 14, 1979 meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.

John McGlynn reported on what events have been transpiring with the Twin Bridges facility. It was noted that when the Land Board voted it was tied 2-2. The Supreme Court refused to allow the veterans organizations bid. The MPA still wants the buildings and is looking into giving back or selling the land locally to those who want it. Vince Caciari insists that veterans should get together and fight for expansion of the Columbia Falls facility as it is an established home and needs the additional support of all of the veterans and veterans organizations. The expansion of Columbia Falls Soldiers Home is again 37th on the list of priorities of the Long Range Building Program.

The comment was then made that the thing that had killed almost all v veterans legislation was all of the special interest groups around the state trying to get only their special projects passed. Until the veterans and veterans organizations unite and put on a united front with the Legislature no veterans legislation of any kind will ever pass. Veterans are just going to have to become involved instead of passive or they will eventually lose all of their benefits. With the number of veterans in this state they could run the state but for some reason they, at this point, have no interest in anything specifically.

John Grauman made a motion that the claims through June, 1979 be approved. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

Joe Eskildsen brought up the subject of the training session and its value to our staff. He felt that the Veterans Administration should be approached to change the structure of the meetings so that specific problem areas could be dealt with during a session. A letter should be sent to Martin Bleskey, Veterans Benefits, explaining what our staff needed in a training session such as an update on changes in regulations, new legislation enacted by Congress and then the session should be opened to question and answers to specific areas that seem to be creating problems in successful claims completion. These are such areas as: hospital admissions; why claims take so long to process; what are fundamental problems and how can we assist in changing our procedures to expedite claims or applications of any kind. Dave Armstrong was instructed to send a letter to this effect to Martin Bleskey. If the VA doesn't structure the sessions differently than in the past either we will have to discontinue bringing in our staff or we'll have to put on the training session ourselves using VA personnel as panel guest speakers.

The Board felt that the answers that Dave Armstrong received from the Congressional delegation on his inquiry of the new 'improved' law were very vague and looked like they were avoiding the answer to the question. The Board requested that another letter from themselves be sent to the same effect and maybe this time they would get their point across.

It was noted that the Service Organizations would now be required to submit a monthly report and annual report for their contracted service secretary. The amount comes to \$345.35 per month per service organization with the service organization paying the difference. The warrants are now issued to the organization and have to be renewed annually.

The Board was advised that at this point it looked like our 1979 budget was about \$300.00 overspent but the Department has assured us that they will waive that amount if it becomes necessary.

Dave Armstrong then advised the Board that Bill Daley's recovery is coming along great. Within a year he will probably be having no problems with addressing groups again. The VA Doctors were amazed at his progress since all of his therapy is done by himself.

Since the Legislature has requested that the VAD be more visible and obtain more information on problem areas, we have sent directives to our service office staff to do a study of nursing homes in their areas to insure that all veterans and dependents are receiving maximum benefits. Al Miron has completed his for his area and has submitted his report and we are expecting the others to follow as the service officers complete their monthly itinerant travel.

Other outreach programs will have to be co-ordinated with the Director of SRS, Social Service, Economic Services and the County Welfare Directors. These are being worked up as mandated by Legislature and should be in effect by the time of the training sessions.

John Grauman made a motion that Ruddy Reilly be allowed to go to the VA Insurance Seminar in St. Paul, Minn. on October 3 and 4, 1979. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

It was noted that the Bozeman office is without a secretary and since the last meeting so is Wolf Point. Both service officers have expressed concern about an answering service or device for when they are out of the office or in the field on their regular trips. John Grauman made a motion that answering devices be obtained and installed with a remote for Helena. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Neil Shepherd to adjourn as there was no further business. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried. The next meeting would be held in conjunction with the training session at Fort Harrison- preferably in October, so there would not be adverse weather or road conditions to deal with.

John J. Grauman
(Chairman)

Vince Caciari
(Secretary)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on November 2, 1979 at 1:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, SRS Building, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

Neil shepherd, Vice Chairman
 Vince Caciari, Secretary
 John Grauman, Member
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.
 Ruddy R. Reilly, Great Falls Service Officer

Larry Longfellow, Surgeon VFW, Dept. of Montana

The minutes of the July 20, 1979 meeting were read and stand corrected to read 39th on the list for long range building program(37). A motion was made by John Grauman that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

The letters from the Congressional delegation dealing with the New Improved Pension Law were pretty much the same as the previous letters received. Unless the veterans and veterans' organizations create lots of pressure on the Congress this law will not be changed. Even so we will have no way of knowing if and when they will act on any changes. The Congressional delegation is still ignoring the fact that for the majority of the veterans population this law is detrimental. How to get them to see this fact is our problem.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that the Governor had directed a savings of mileage for the coming year and the Board has only been allocated 9000 miles. This mileage is for the entire Board for all travel in 1979-80. This item was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

A motion was made to approve claims through September, 1979 by Joe Eskildsen. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

The Board directed Dave to request annual figures from the Veterans Administration by county of the veterans receiving benefits and if possible which we hold the power of attorney on.

A news release about the information received by Ruddy R. Reilly at the bi-annual insurance conference should also be distributed and the individual service officers should be sure that their areas outlets print the material.

Letters of appreciation to the Veterans Administration staff for a very successful training session should also be sent out by Dave on behalf of the Board. This motion was made by John Grauman, seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.

The Board felt that the letter from Keith Colbo to the county directors appointing a contact person in each county would be very helpful. Our service officers should have to be sure to follow up on this if they did not receive letters appointing someone in the near future.

The Board then began conducting interviews of the applicants for the service officer trainee position in Great Falls. The applicants were taken in the order in which they arrived:

Leonard M. Shumski
 Fred R. Olson

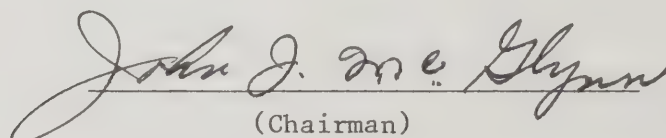
Francis A. Sibert
Francis E. Poodry
Darrell J. Murray
Harold J. Paul
William Z. Crouse
Richard J. Albertini


Other applications received but who did not appear for an interview were considered on the basis of their application only and were:

Donna M. Benton
Kim H. Sutton
Jose D.A. Martinez

The Board felt that all the applicants were fairly equally qualified and the decision as to which person to hire was becoming more difficult all the time. The people applying were all well qualified. After much consideration a motion was made by John Grauman that they hire Fred R. Olson for the trainee position and if for some reason he decided not to take the job after all then the job should be offered to Darrel Murray as the second choice and Donna M. Benton as their third choice. All applicants were to be notified by letter and advised that their applications would be held pending any future openings. If at the time another opening occurred they were no longer interested they could so notify us. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

The motion was made by John Grauman to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on 1-25-80 at 10:00 a.m. in the SRS 1st Floor Conference Room, in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Neil Shepherd, Vice Chairman, with the following members present:

John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman
Vince Caciari, Secretary
John Grauman

Ben Johns, Asst. Director, SRS
Dave Gould, Legislative Auditor-Sunset
Dick Varner, Legislative Auditor-Sunset
David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator Roxie Thomas, Adm. Secy.

Mr. McGlynn, Chairman, asked Neil Shepherd to preside because of recent injuries sustained in a fall on the ice.
Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen was unable to attend.

The minutes of the November 2, 1979 meeting were read.
A motion was made by John Grauman that the minutes be approved as read, and the motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong then presented Dave Gould and Dick Varner to the Board so they could give their report of the findings of their audit up to this point.

Dave Gould explained that the written report was not completed as yet. They were compiling all the information they had requested and received but the draft should be ready in late February or March, 1980. At that time the Board members would receive copies and be requested to comment upon the findings as reported. To give a better understanding of the report the Auditors commented that they went to all our field offices except Great Falls, Missoula and Wolf Point. They checked files, procedures for keeping statistical records and queried staff about different procedures used.

The auditors contacted the VA, veterans organizations and other state agencies regarding service provided to veterans. There does not seem to be excessive duplication of service.

It was noted that most offices seem to be providing the public with necessary services. There is some duplication of effort in Helena and Miles City. In Helena the VA and veterans organizations can provide the same services, and in Miles City the VA service officer can provide the same services.

Questionnaires were sent to individual veterans, widows, children the following service organizations: DAV, WWI Veterans, Amvets, American Legion and VFW. Specific questions included if the Board and Division should be continued and most of the replies were favorable. The veterans organizations replies indicated that they only supply minimal field assistance and rely on VAD staff to assist in filing of forms. The only place they have full time service officers was in the VA facility in Helena.

Our state was compared with other states as to size of budget, staffing, etc. Montana ended up in about the middle of the survey and it does not appear that Division budgets or staffing are excessive.

It was noted that we had requested a service officer trainee in Billings but got one in Havre instead. We should look at staffing in Billings and Kalispell as the population and/or contacts are greater in these areas. It is possible that the Division could get additional secretarial staff through CETA or CEP programs as this is being done in one or two areas.

Ben Johns indicated that this was a possibility and maybe the state office could co-ordinate this from here to other parts of the state.

Dave Armstrong indicated that the problem here is that it would have to be set up as training situations only because with our budget restrictions we could not hire the individual at the end of the training period. It is a possible method of stretching the budget and getting extra assistance at times.

One of the problem areas, the auditors indicated, is visibility to the general public. 60% of the replies didn't know the Division was a State agency. The auditors realize that money is not available for publicity but there are avenues available at this time such as public service announcements, public service television programs co-ordinated throughout the state is another possibility and should be checked into. MSU in Bozeman has classes in commercials, etc., and they might be willing to put together a spot or about a 20 minute program that could be used around the state by inserting the local address and phone number on a tape at the bottom. If properly approached they might be willing to do this type project as a class assignment and costs would be limited to materials used. Board members felt this would be worth looking into.

The people surveyed did not normally find out about the VAD from any of the media sources. Most all of the people contacted were concerned about curtailment of funds for personnel and travel because they have no alternate method of receiving assistance. It was noted that most announcements are aired during the 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. times of the day and consequently veterans seldom hear it because they are working or in school. Veterans did feel that this was a problem and most of them felt that some kind of bulletin or leaflet would be handy.

The auditors wondered if telephone book listing should be uniform and besides being in the State of Montana list it would be a good idea to list the address and phone number again under Veterans Affairs Division.

The idea of using volunteers was suggested. One of the Board members mentioned that this idea has not proven to be feasible in most cases because we would be liable for any mis-information that a volunteer gave out and that could become very costly. Most programs have found that volunteers do a good job but are usually not well qualified enough to answer whatever questions may come up.

The survey also showed that about 75% of the veterans do not belong to any service organization. Our contacts seemed to reach a peak about 1978 and have been dropping by 9000 per year since. Curtailment of mileage for itinerant travel is partially to blame. Trends for pension, etc., show there will be increased demand for service because the WWII veterans are at about retirement age. The survey also showed that the younger veteran did not tend to belong to any veterans organization.

The auditors continued that they had noted about 4 employees are eligible for retirement during the next bi-ennium and if they should retire it could leave an office closed or one with just a secretary for a considerable length of time. It was suggested that a specific amount should be requested in the next budget and documentation on who is retiring and actual costs should be available to substantiate the request. With as few employees as the division has there is a need for orderly replacement of retiring staff. These figures should include the amounts for sick leave and annual leave and the Legislature should be made aware of this being a budgetary problem for the Veterans Affairs Division.

Statistics being kept can be very useful if they are backed by federal dollar figures. The VA has been requested, in writing by Dave Armstrong, to advise us by county of the dollar amounts of veterans benefits dispersed in Montana by the VA. The VA has requested this information for us from the computer but it will be about 2 months until they get the answer.

Dave Armstrong remarked that some of the statistics being requested of us are not feasible as we would have to hire additional staff to collect and compile the data for reports.

Vince Caciari extended the thanks of the Board and himself to the Auditors for doing a thorough job and it seems from the Boards standpoint that the auditors have the Board, Divisions, and Montana veterans best interest in mind.

Dave Gould and Dick Varner then advised that the drafts of the audit should be ready in February or March. Drafts would be sent to Board Members, SRS Director and Asst. Director and Dave Armstrong. At that time arrangements would be made to have another meeting for input to the report from the Board. The auditors then excused themselves.

It was reported that a letter from John Sloan to the Governor requesting that the secretary currently paid partially by contract should become a full time paid state employee. What the Governor's reply will be is not known at this time.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that we are already in the preliminary budgeting process for 1981-83. He mentioned the goals that had been submitted and none of the Board felt that anything further should be added. They did feel that the advise of the Sunset Auditors should be kept in mind while preparing the budget.

Dave advised the Board that Judy Rippinggale, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, wants a report on what our secretaries do and the length of time it takes them to complete each task. There is no way that these figures can be accurately recorded or kept.

The county contact person list is coming in but it is not yet complete. Some of the service officers did not travel during the month or so past because of their mileage limits for the year so we are allowing more time for the compilation of these lists.

Aging Services has about 50 referral people around the state and we already utilize them.

The nursing home study has been completed and some of the cases reviewed it was impossible to tell what the individual was getting because of a guardian. The right to privacy laws can work both for and against us. The survey did generate 8 widows of veterans eligible for A&A but not receiving. Claims have been submitted on all of these and awards should be forthcoming shortly. We also have the added benefit of contacting each of the nursing homes so now if they have a problem they are aware of our agency.

It was mentioned that one of the causes that reflects lower contacts in Miles City is the transfer of Hassel Painter, a VA staff member, trained by Bill Heikkinen in Missoula as a veterans coordinator. Hassel tends to take care of any and all veterans or dependents claims as would our service officers and VA staff does not ordinarily do it that way. Etta Jaeger will have her 10 years in in April and is 64 years of age. She may retire, but at this time we have no indication of that. If she does retire it is highly likely that she would not be replaced because the contacts in that area do not show a need for two staff peoples' expenses. That office would be run similarly to Wolf Point and Bozeman then, without secretaries. Other staff positions in the Helena office were questioned. Earl is he needed or Tom Hamilton. Earl is responsible for the budgetary functions, accounting, etc. and Tom handles the claims and service officer work at Ft. Harrison. Serious consideration should be given to possible cutting back staff if possible in Miles City and/or Helena.

If we are again reduced to 80% funding and our budget is 83.56% personnel services it would be impossible to meet these guidelines for the next biennium.

Our audit letters have been being returned at about the rate of 60% and very few are negative towards our staff or services. Most complaints are about monetary amounts received from the VA not being substantial enough.

A motion was made by John Grauman to approve claims through December, 1979. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

John Grauman made a motion that DWAJ be allowed to attend the American Legion Nat'l Convention, in Washington D.C. from 2-19 through 2-21-80. The motion was seconded and carried.

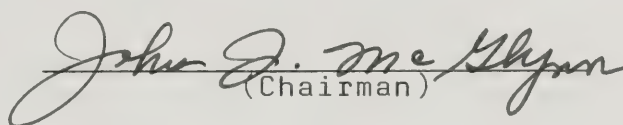
Dave Armstrong then read a letter from a grateful lady who was assisted by Bill Daley. We know our staff does the best job possible but it is always nice when people let us know as it seems to happen so seldom. The Board felt that a letter of commendation with the copy of the letter from the lady attached to Bill Daley on their behalf should be written. The motion was made to that effect, seconded and carried.

Vince Caciari felt that Dave should be directed to issue a letter to the field staff regarding retirements. Since we are looking at fiscal austerity we should be able to go to the Legislature with facts and figures as to who, how much and when our staff people

are retiring. Other members of the Board concurred with this recommendation.

Dave advised the Board that about 56% of the money dispersed in the State of Montana by the VA was due to claims generated by the VAD. The VA advised us that it could be more but with people moving about it was hardt to tell. They've always felt the figure was somewhat higher but their reports substantiate at least that much.

A motion was made to adjourn with the next meeting to be held at the request of the Sunset Auditors in February or March. The motion was seconded by Vince Caciari and carried.


(Chairman)

(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held April 11, 1980 at 10:00 a.m., in the SRS 1st Floor Conference Room, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

John Grauman
Neil Shepherd, Vice Chairman

Dave Armstrong, Administrator
Ben Johns, Assistant Director, SRS

Roxie Thomas, Admin. Sec.

John Sloan, DAV
Jim Flynn, Governor's Office

Scott Seacat, Manager, Legislative Auditor/Sunset
Dave Gould, Legislative Auditor
Jim Pellegrini, Legislative Auditor

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen and Vince Caciari were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

The motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 25, 1980 meeting as previously distributed. The motion was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

Dave Gould, Legislative Auditor, presented Mr. Seacat and Mr. Pellegrini to the members of the Board.

Scott Seacat again explained the purpose of the Sunset Audit and the authority of the Legislative Auditor's office in so far as the audits were concerned. He gave a brief run down on how audits were handled by his agency. The gathering of the information, compiling, writing reports and results, distributing them, the informal hearing to advise the Agency and Board of their findings. Upon completion of the informal hearing the Legislative Auditor's would make corrections, if necessary, finalize, have printed and distribute the final report prior to the public hearing. The time schedule at this point for the Board of Veterans affairs and the Veterans Affairs Division appears to be that the hearing will probably be held sometime in June, 1980 after which the Legislative Audit Committee will contemplate the information received for a month or so and make the decision to continue, modify or do away with the Board and Agency.

Dave Armstrong then submitted a typewritten list of discrepancies he had found in the preliminary report (copy attached). The first several were clarification of points in the report or corrections of locations, etc.

John Sloan, DAV Nat'l S.O., feels that his organization is saving the state an awful lot of money. The DAV Nat'l pays his salary and that of one full time secretary while the State of Montana pays only the contract fee for one secretary and the fee is so low that it can be only a part time position to be minimum wage. The DAV still contends that the STATE of MONTANA should fund this as a full time position and pay all the employee benefits including insurance and retirement. Mr. Sloan has submitted a request to the Governor to that effect.

The members of the Board indicated their support of allowing the Division to budget for more money for the two secretarial positions for the DAV and VFW. The Board does not feel, however, that our own staff should suffer or their positions be done away with to do this. The Board does not want to have to reduce the travel of our service officers or any other services that we provide to pay for the organizations secretaries either. With these restrictions they are willing to support the service organizations request for increases in their contracted services.

Mr. Seacat indicated that these requests would have to be made by the Board of Veterans Affairs to the Legislature.

Mr. Jack McClynn, Chairman, indicated to the Legislative Auditors that he and the Board felt that the (the auditor's/audit) had been very fair in their findings and it left the door open for their requests and contentions.

Dave Armstrong then went through his list of specific rebuttal of the audit. During his explanations he clarified points on power of attorney's (23-22) and just why they were necessary. The reason travel was set up specifically this way was because of previous budget cut backs or increases in allowances but no increased dollars from the Legislature. All travel is now set up, where ever possible, with natural loops by the office most centrally located to those areas.

Ben Johns clarified the point that SRS didn't impose the travel restrictions but the Governor's Office and Department of Administration did. Their programs were only implemented by SRS as mandated.

The auditors felt that travel should be looked at closely again and possibly revised making sure that there is thorough area coverage and that it is at least adequate for the specific area.

Public awareness of the Veterans Affairs Division to other than the veterans service organizations does not seem to exist. If the Service Officers are actually doing anything with other local organizations ie: Elks, Eagles, etc. it is not being recorded and it probably should be.

Dave Armstrong commented that we have been obtaining statistics by other methods during this past fiscal year but if we were to try to keep more specific statistics the cost of our program would probably about double(equal current level spending). With the current staffing, etc. it is impossible to maintain and implement a computer and program with our current budget.

The auditors still felt that without some of this information as a management tool it would be impossible to properly manage the program. Some efforts should be made to obtain the statistics requested. These questions would definitely be asked again during the next Legislative sessio so you should be prepared to answer them. Any comments made at the public hearing will definitely be taken into consideration plus the service organizations should feel free to write or call with any questions or comments that they may have. The revised report will be out about 15 days prior to the public hearing and any one interested in obtaining a copy needs only to request from the Legislative Auditors Office. After the hearing the Audit Committee will consider all the information and the report will then be deliberated (a month). After this they will make their final decision to the Sunset Audit Committee.

The Board thanked the Auditors for their time and consideration. A motion was made by the Board to re-convene at 1:30 p.m. to conduct the business session.

The Members of the Board re-convened at 1:30 p.m. in the Veterans Affairs Division office.

The mileage allocations as set forth at the beginning of the fiscal year were about where they were expected to be. Each office had been allocated so many miles (because of Governor's directive to all state agencies) and they all had used about as many as it was expected that they would.

A motion was made by John Grauman to approve the claims through March 31, 1980.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong reported that Ron Weiss, Budget and Program Planning, had gone over our current budget and noted that we were carrying two empty FTE's. We were mandated a certain amount of vacancy savings but he felt that it would be foolish to continue to carry two empty FTE's. If the secretaries were not going to be replaced then the agency should look into changing one of the FTE's to a service officer trainee and fill that position as soon as possible. In view of the fact that Ron Weiss was aware that our retirements for the next few years were going to severely limit our staff and services his recommendation was to hire one more trainee, at least, so areas would not suffer from long periods of limited staffing, while terminal leaves ran out. Retirement pay (terminal leave) to these people should also be considered in the overall costs of our program during the budget process. After the meeting with Ron Weiss, Dave Armstrong sent out a letter to all service office staff and requested information as to when they each planned to retire. The results of this letter are: Bill Daley will retire about July, 1981; Joe Henderson, Billings, and Bob Ruhl, Bozeman, June, 1983; Al Miron, Kalispell, July, 1983 and Dave Armstrong also indicated that he planned his retirement in 1983 as he would be eligible in January. A motion was made by John Grauman that due to Ron Weiss' advise the Board hire Darrell Murray, applicant from Butte for the new service officer trainee position in Billings and if for some reason Mr. Murray did not take the job then it should be offered to Ms. Donna Benton of Butte. Because the FTE's had been left vacant so long this should be done immediately with the idea of having the individual on the payroll no later than June, 1980. If additional furniture was necessary (desk & chair) these should be obtained. The motion was seconded and carried.

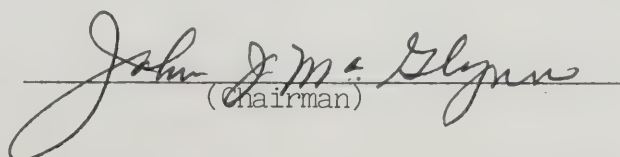
The Board directed Dave Armstrong to request an Attorney General's opinion as to what exactly constitutes free tuition and fees at Montana State University System Schools. There again appears to be complications in veterans from Montana receiving this benefit from University System schools. The Board members would also appreciate receiving copies of this decision when it is rendered. Since the Board is a 'quasi judicial' body it was felt that possible consideration should be given to fee's for legal counsel in the next budget.

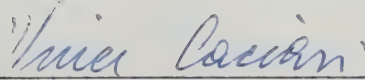
Dave Armstrong reported on the mid-winter conference in Washington, D.C. and explained some of the budgetary cuts that the VA system was experiencing due to inflation. Beneficiary travel and usage of local doctors after surgery by the VA were among the items discussed.

Dave Armstrong requested that he be allowed time off to go with Montana's Friendship Force to Japan, May 12, 1980 to May 25, 1980. A motion was made to allow Dave to do this. The motion was seconded and carried.

Jack McGlynn indicated that he would be attending the DAV convention in Miles City during Dave's absence and Dave had requested Arnold McLee's to represent the Division at the convention.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried.


(Chairman)


(Secretary)

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on June 13, 1980 at 10:00 a.m. in the SRS 1st Floor Conference Room, Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman, with the following members present:

Neil Shepherd, Vice Chairman
 Vince Ciciari, Secretary
 Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen
 John Grauman
 John Sloan, DSO DAV
 Albert Miron, VFW
 Robert Ruhl, VFW
 Charlie Frolick, VFW

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator

Roxie Thomas, Adm. Secy.

A motion was made by John Grauman to approve the minutes of the April 18, 1980 meeting as distributed. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Legislative Audit hearing will be held June 23, 1980 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 104, Capitol Building, Helena, Montana. The Legislative Auditors recommend that the Board appoint a member to present an oral summary as well as the written summary of their report.

John Sloan interceded with his comment as regards the news clippings of the Sunset Audit Report on the Veterans Affairs & Board. He felt that the Auditors had specifically missed the actual interpretation of powers of atty. with the Veterans Administration. He felt that in the Board's rebuttal it should be noted that the duplication of benefits does not exist in Helena or anywhere else. The Veterans Administration staff can give the veteran the proper forms to complete but they can not act as atty. for the veteran when he has filed his claim and it goes before the rating board or appeals board. It was suggested by implication that we duplicated the DAV or VFW but that also is not true. A veteran, regardless of his affiliation with any organization, can assign his power of attorney to any service organization or State Veterans Affairs and expects them to act as his attorney in fact. John felt that this problem specifically should be dealt with by the Board in their statement. Exact clarification of this should be made it at all possible. Not realizing that this was what this Board meeting was specifically called for and having a conflicting engagement he then excused himself.

During this segment of the meeting several items were specifically mentioned: A single power of atty. is all that any one veteran can assign at any one time. A number of veterans in the past have requested two individuals to represent them simultaneously and these people had to be made to recognize the fact that only one person (agency ie: VAD DAV VFW, AL) can represent them at a specific time. Someone from the other agency can make a statement as an expert witness but they cannot represent them at the same time. This is also true of any practicing attorney.

It has always been relatively difficult to make individuals who do not deal with the VA direct realize that we are not VA men or women. If we were federal Veterans Administration employees we would not be able to represent them before the rating or appeals Board. VFW, DAV people are hired by their Nat'l headquarters to represent any veteran who has assigned their power of atty. to that agency and the VFW and DAV representative is paid by their organizations. The Veterans Affairs Division staff is hired by the Board which is appointed by the Governor of Montana, to represent any veteran who requests assistance regardless of their assignment of power of attorney. If

If we specifically have to research their files for information then the VAD has to hold the power of attorney or we have to simply hand the request to the organization and expect them to get the answer back to the veteran. Without researching files and checking specific details in an individual file (anywhere from 2 or 3 pages to 7" or 9") it is impossible to advise the individual on exactly what is necessary to develop a specific claim to assure the best interest of the veteran are served.

A VA employee will give the veteran the form and tell him what is necessary to complete his claim. The organization holding the power of attorney will assist the veteran in obtaining the information, answers and documents necessary to support his/her claim, whenever possible.

On page 3 it is recommend that the Board appointments be confirmed by the Senate. None of the present Board members objected to this practice but if they're to be confirmed by the Senate then money will have to be budgeted for the travel necessary to appear before the Senate for confirmation. At the present there is no funds available for this travel. If the law is changed the Agency should be allowed to budget for this additional expenditure. Duplication of benefits again does not exist. The Veterans Administration and VAD (or service organization) employees are two different things. All Montana veterans have the right to appoint whoever they want to represent them and still belong or not belong to any organization. They also have the right to not be represented but if problems arise a power of attorney becomes necessary as the veteran is not aware of all the pertinent regulations and rules.

The Board members did not feel it was necessary for all of them to return for the public hearing. It was decided unanimously that John 'Jack' McGlynn, Chairman, would represent the Board and make a statement on behalf of the Board. David Armstrong would also attend the hearing and Roxie would attend to take notes if necessary. (Budget restrictions this close to the end of the fiscal year do not allow for an expenditure for all members. By law we cannot overspend and it is no longer possible to obtain program transfers.) This was then made in the form of a motion by John Grauman, seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried. The members of the Board expressed their desire to have the Dept. Commanders and/or Adjutants present also at the hearing to lend their support and assistance.

Joe Eskildsen continued with page 29 (tables/statistics) showing each offices contacts and comparisons of staffing. Joe felt that the Auditors and Legislators should be made aware that the Board members felt that VAD staff are people and not statistics. They have always tried to administer the program with the idea of hiring career people who would assist people in obtaining benefits they are entitled to and not just keeping statistics. We realize that current staffing may not necessarily be spread exactly where it should be but the secretary in Miles City has been with the agency for 10 years and lived 60 years in the Miles City area and no employer can expect after that many years to be able to say move to Bozeman and expect that person to go unless it was a condition of employment. If and when the secretary in Miles City should retire serious consideration will be given to putting a secretary back in Bozeman. An FTE has been established for a Service Officer Trainee in Billings and the individual has been placed in this position with the understanding that upon a retirement or termination he may be required to move. The compensation is just not high enough to expect people to do this otherwise. The statistics for the Kalispell area are as high as they are because of the involvement of that specific individual in so many civic organizations and programs for so long. The next service officer could not be expected to be as involved or know as many people. Here is another case of dealing with a person and not a statistic.

Page 31 deals with publicity, telephone & travel. All of our service officers put out notices on their travel schedules and have fairly good luck with getting these items in the weekly papers and in some areas the daily papers. We have had many instances where news releases have been changed to much that they give absolutely no information at all but that is because the newspaper re-wrote the article to fit the space available and did not get the information desired in the article. Newspapers also lend to the allusion that our people are from the VA in the headlines for articles and our service officers are constantly correcting this misprint but it still seems to happen. There does not appear to be any simple method of correcting this problem.

The TV advertising program we are going to have taped has had to be tabled (DWAJ reported) because it appears we are coming very close to expending our entire budget for this fiscal year. At this point it appears we will only have about \$500.00 left. Early in the 1981 fiscal year Bob Ruhl and Dave Armstrong intend to again contact the MSU TV department and set up the format for the program or spot announcement. SRS allocated costs to our offices for STS communications in the amount of \$600.00 for two or three offices and because of this expenditure we felt we had better hold off on the TV spot.

The Board agrees with the Auditors that the VAD should have a toll free line into the Helena office and that wherever possible the VAD offices should be on the STS. Based on the auditors recommendations the Board has directed that these expenses be placed in the 1982-83 budget request. The Board will ask that the Legislature consider this request and allow the budget expenditure to put the STS line into all offices except Wolf Point and that is because the STS does not run into Wolf Point. The agency will have to continue to budget for \$20.00 or \$30.00 per month for long distance calls for that office. Average monthly costs would be about \$50.00 per month per office plus 14¢ per minute for STS hook-ups. We understand that we share employee costs in the offices where we are co-located now. Our secretaries cover the telephone on specific days during a month and suitable arrangements have been made because of travel or sickness in the past. We foresee no problems or difficulties in the future.

Travel (page 31, 33& 34). The Board does look at the travel of its employees from time to time. Because of trainees and specific budget cuts some areas have been re-assigned in the past to accomodate natural loops. The Board also was restricted when the Department of Labor ruled on compensatory time against the service officers being eligible. We have had to order the service officers to flex their 40 hour week to include the travel time to and from district meetings. Arranged schedules have to accomodate an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. work day to include travel time and still have the employee far enough away from home to warrant the per diem and room allowance. This year we are specifically stuck with a mandate by the Governor of 10% reduction in mileage to conserve energy. During past years the the Legislature increased mileage re-imbursement but failed to appropriate any additional money. We have never had any cushion to allow travel to continue and when the funds become short then we must curtail travel. If travel schedules are constantly changed (ie: Daley-Whitehall-Mayor comes and opens the office for Bill on a specific day because that is the day he has always traveled and met his contacts there.) If this was changed very often it would create all kinds of confusion for our contact persons as well as clients.

The motion was made by Joe Eskildsen that Legislation be introduced to allow the members of the Board of Veterans Affairs to receive the \$25.00 fee for attending a Board meeting. It was felt by all members that \$25.00 was a just and reasonable fee. The motion was seconded by John Grauman and carried.

We, the members of the Board, appreciate what the auditors/legislature wanted us to do statistically but we have never worried specifically about statistics. Our primary concern has always been people and assisting them in obtaining benefits. Our employees are aware of our feelings in this area and we feel that they are doing the job we specifically hired them to do. If the auditors/legislature wish us to obtain more specific statistics we will assign one of the Helena staff this additional duty but some of their current duties will have to be re-assigned or dropped. We feel that all our employees have made honest and just efforts to comply with all the additional statistics they are maintaining at this time. We sincerely appreciate their efforts but if they fall short because of their concern for their claimants benefits we cannot fault them. As they are making every effort to comply with these new demands and continue to give the service we demand we do not feel we can find fault. If we, the Members of the Board, did not feel or trust our employees to do their job to the best of their abilities we would terminate them. The system we now have is workable and we just can not afford budgetary expenditures for the sake of statistics only. Our staff's job is to take care of veterans and their dependents.

Al Miron & Bob Ruhl concurred with the Boards feelings in this regard and only wanted to mention that feeling by the VFW Dept. Convention group were very friendly and open to VAD employees. The VFW felt that the VAD staff is doing a tremendous job.

A motion was made by John Grauman that claims through 5-31-80 be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong reported that he had been looking over the travel and it appears that Marilyn Combs could travel from Havre and cover the Lewistown area from Malta and then to Ft. Benton and back to Havre. Gt. Falls would then have its other two loops. The Board concurred with this decision, and Dave was told to notify the service officers of this change, immediately.

Bill Daley will receive a recognition award from the VA on July 18, 1980 and Dave Armstrong and Jack McGlynn, Chairman have been requested to attend. The ceremonies will be held in Butte.

Small Business Administration has asked us to co-sponsor Viet Vet loan conferences in Helena and possibly in Billings. The Board thought this a good program. A motion was made by John Grauman to co-sponsor the program, seconded by Joe Eskildsen and carried.

The Operational plan for fiscal year 1981 reduces travel, increases contracts, increases communications, personnel services as per schedule.

The motion was made to accept the operational plan as proposed. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong requested permission to travel to NASDVA meeting in South Carolina. A motion was made to allow this expenditure. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made for the following election of officers to become effective July, 1980: Neil Shepherd, Chairman; Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Vice Chairman; John Grauman, Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Neil Shepherd _____
 _____ John Grauman _____

12-11-80

I, Marie Hinman, upon assuming my duties as Administrative Secretary, have discovered that pages 147 through 150 were missing from the minutes book of the meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs.

I know of no logical explanation for this.

Signed

Marie Hinman

The meeting of the Board and Service Office Staff was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on October 31, 1980.

The meeting started with John Sloan DAV showing a film on "Delayed Stress Syndrom" from the DAV National Headquarters. A discussion followed this film.

Tom Hamilton then discussed claims and the Target System at Fort Harrison.

Jon Merideth, Acting Director SRS, greeted the staff and Members of the Board.

Dave Armstrong clarified points of Service Officer's duties and responsibilities and those of secretaries.

The Board convened for a coffee break and the service office staff was released to return to their localities.

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Neil Shepherd, Chairman, with the following members present:

John "Jack" McGlynn	David W. Armstrong, Jr., Admin.
John Grauman, Secretary	Roxie Thomas, Secretary

It was noted that Vince Caciari was unable to attend due to illness and Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen because of a conflict in his schedule.

Others present were:

Darrell Murray, Service Officer Trainee
 Tom Hamilton, Claims Officer
 Bob Ruhl, Service Officer
 Arlene Soderstrom, Secretary
 Al Miron, Service Officer
 Donna Benton, Service Officer applicant

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June, 1980 meeting of the Board as read. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by John Grauman to approve the claims through September 1980. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong then advised the Board of receipt of the letter from the Sunset Audit Committee and the corresponding proposed legislation to re-create the Board and Division. The members present indicated receipt of this document each personally.

A motion was made by John Grauman to approve the budget as proposed. The Finance and Audit committee and Legislative Audit Committee have no objection to the appropriation requests including terminal leaves. The motion was seconded and carried. It was noted that there might be some problems with the Legislature.

A motion was made by the Board that a procedures manual be written. It should contain the secretarial duties as well as the Service Officers. All pages should be numbered and dated and when amendments are necessary the

proper page or pages should be referenced and the old page destroyed when the new one is put in. This motion was seconded and carried. The motion was amended to include a section for directives by the Administrator and Board members. These also should be numbered and dated and retained until changed or updated.

The board waived the set agenda because several employees had requests they wished to submit for consideration.

John Grauman made a motion to establish a new position in Veterans Affairs with the title of Deputy Administrator. Dave Armstrong is directed to write a description of the job, its duties and responsibilities. The Board felt that all job descriptions should be looked into. The motion was seconded and carried.

John Grauman made a motion to change the title of the secretaries to Administrative Assistants (Grade 8 to 11) and request funding necessary to cover this additional cost, if any. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong submitted for Fred Olson a request to be allowed leave for school attendance and work study from the Great Falls office. The Board not being sure of the policy of the State wished to table this motion until the next meeting.

Dave Armstrong then advised the Board that Van Thomas had resigned effective December 12, 1980. The Board accepted the resignation and directed Dave Armstrong to fill this position as soon as possible.

Dave Armstrong then reported on his meeting with Joe Henderson in October, 1980. Joe Henderson has since indicated in a letter that he intends to pursue the possibility of disability retirement. His final date of pay would be December 24, 1980. The Board felt that Joe should be allowed to pursue this avenue and if the PERS Board will allow it they have no objections.

A motion was then made by John Grauman to transfer Marilyn Combs, Havre Service Officer to Billings to fill Joe Hendersons vacancy and transfer Fred Olson to Havre from Great Falls at the soonest possible date. The State will defray the expenses allowed by law for each of these moves. If there is a delay in Fred moving to Havre, the Great Falls office would be directed to cover the Havre area and itinerant travel until Fred could move. The motion was seconded and carried.

One of the staff employees, Bob Ruhl, objected to this procedure because in the past the jobs with higher classifications had been put out on a bid basis and any service officer was eligible to apply. The Board asked if he specifically wanted the job and he indicated that he did not. The Board indicated they had polled the other members of the staff and none had shown any interest in moving at this time.

A motion was made by Jack McGlynn to hire Donna Benton as the new trainee for the Butte office. She would be hired and trained in Butte by transferring the FTE trainee position from Great Falls to Butte for the time being. The motion was seconded and carried.

A general discussion of the service officers and Board then ensued in regards to the position of Service Officer and why each office was graded

differently. All the service officers present felt that regardless of their geographical location and population they should be receiving the same pay for the same type work. The service officers felt that what was being done for the secretaries in changing their title and possible upgrading of their positions was great. They wanted to know what the Board would be looking for in the Deputy Administrators job and this would have to be advertised in agency before going outside to fill the position wouldn't it?

The Board indicated that after Dave Armstrong had researched the position and assigned the duties and responsibilities, Legislative funding being appropriated, would be time enough to start accepting application letters first from the staff and then if necessary going outside the agency. They felt it only fair that current staff should be allowed to apply first.

The Board felt that all current staff Service Officers, with their backgrounds in related fields should receive waiver of the training period. A motion was made by the Board to release all current trainees from the training program, recognizing their prior experience, and make them Service Officers. When funding became available from the Legislature all Service Officers should be paid at a grade 12 level with cost of living and step increases. The old method for recruitment purposes might have been fine but it failed to recognize potential from previous experience. The motion was seconded and carried.

Bob Ruhl reported to the Board that he had contacted the TV Department at MSU in Bozeman and was really impressed with their lay out and equipment capabilities. They would not be able to get to our inserts for public service until 1-1-81 and the cost would be in the area of \$400.00 plus additional tapes. This was being done as the Sunset Audit showed we were not as visible to the public as we should be. The Board felt this program still has merit and that Bob should continue to pursue it.

The Board then recessed for lunch and was to return at 1:30 p.m.

The Board re-convened at 1:50 p.m. with the Chairman, Neil Shepherd, calling the meeting to order with the following present:

Jack McGlynn
John Grauman, Secretary
Marilyn Combs, Service Officer

David W. Armstrong, Jr. Admin.
Roxie Thomas, Secretary

A motion was made by John Grauman after a personal poll of employees to move Marilyn Combs to Billings as soon as she can find housing, allowing for the expense of travel to find housing and moving expenses as per Dept. of Administration guidelines. This motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong notified the Board of his appointment to the Region 8 Chairman for the American Legion. The Board made a motion to attach a copy of this letter to the minutes of the meeting and enter the information into the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

Jack McGlynn submitted his letter appointing him Veterans Day Representative by the Governor. A motion was made to attach this to the minutes and identify the action in the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to confirm Neil Shepherd as Chairman effective July, 1980. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong submitted a letter from the Department of Labor on our contract.

The Board felt they had no alternative but to comply with their ruling. A motion was made by Jack McGlynn to accept the letter, file it and concur with their ruling. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dave Armstrong passed out copies of the 1981 proposals to the Legislature. A motion was made by McGlynn to allow Dave to have this put together by the staff (SRS) expert in this field for submission to the Legislature. The motion was seconded and carried. Some of the items in this were VA's county break down by dollars and we should work up the breakdown to show what dollars the Veterans Affairs was responsible for, etc. These would then be mailed after the election and before the Legislature.

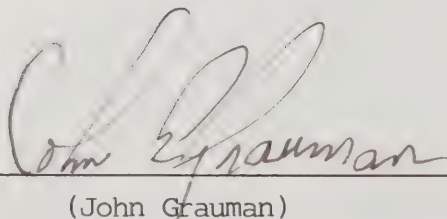
Dave Armstrong reported that the Fiscal Audit report showed only discrepancies in Roxie's leave records. The auditor had been advised at the time that all figures were hand posted and verified quarterly with a calculator.

John Grauman made a motion to accept the secretaries joint letter into the minutes of the meeting. This was their requests to the Board. The motion was seconded and carried.

Roxie Thomas submitted a typewritten grievance to the Board which they refused to recognize or discuss. She was asked if she had any further statement at this time and indicated no, but was willing to answer any questions. Mr. McGlynn indicated that since he did not receive his copy until the coffee break that he had not had time to look the document over. Roxie is not aggressive.

A motion was made to regretfully accept Roxie Thomas's resignation as Administrative Secretary. Dave Armstrong was directed to send a notice to field offices requesting letters of application from anyone who might be interested in moving to Helena to fill the position. If no one is interested then the job would be advertised to the public.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn with the understanding that Neil Shepherd, Chairman, would call the next meeting for the first part of December at which time Dave Armstrong should have put together most of the material requested by the Board so it would be available for submission to the Legislature. The motion was seconded and carried.



(John Grauman)



(Neil Shepherd)

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order in the Office of Mr. David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator, by Chairman Neil Shepherd at 10:00 A.M. on December 5, 1980, with the following members present:

John Grauman, Secretary	David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
John "Jack" McGlynn, Member	Marie Hinman, Acting Administrative Secretary
Vince Caciari, Member	

The Board was advised that Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen was unable to attend due to the death of his mother.

John Grauman, Secretary, read the minutes from the previous meeting and they were approved with the following amendment: John Grauman made a motion to strike the sentence "Roxie is not aggressive" from the minutes. John McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried. Dave Armstrong also pointed out that the statement that the letter of grievance from Roxie Thomas had been handed to the Board members prior to the meeting and not during the meeting as indicated.

Dave Armstrong informed the Board that Donna Benton had started work in the Butte Office on Monday, December 1, 1980 and she would be furnished with whatever she needs to do the job.

Dave Armstrong introduced the discussion concerning the position description evaluations of the Service Officers and Secretaries and stated that Tim Jones from the Personnel Office, was reviewing them as they would have to be done by the classification system. John Grauman handed out tentative job descriptions to each Board member and Dave Armstrong noted that the Secretaries would possibly be acceptable but the Service Officer would probably have to be rewritten. He also stated that the money hadn't been asked for in the budget and this would have to be amended. John Grauman requested Tim Jones be called into the meeting for clarification and the matter be tabled until such time.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that a letter had been written by Marie Hinman asking them to look into the possibility of upgrading the Clerk IV position which should have been presented at the last meeting, however, Roxie Thomas attached it to her resignation and it was inadvertently overlooked.

Dave Armstrong then handed out a proposal for an Assistant Administrator position. This would not create an additional position, only change the job title from Service Officer, Grade II, to Administrative Assistant, Grade 15. John Grauman moved to accept this proposal as is, John McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Under the heading of new business, Dave Armstrong handed to the Board the change of itinerary in the Billings office, and the claims were approved.

John McGlynn brought to the attention of the Board that a letter written by Bill Daley, Service Officer from Butte, had been mailed to different Service Organizations. Mr. Daley stated in the letter that Donna Benton was hired as a trainee and not as his replacement when he retires and also questioned if it would be feasible to have a female employee cover his area as he visits Warm Springs Mental Hospital and the Deer Ledge State Prison. Mr. McGlynn felt this letter was out of line as Mr. Daley was

prematurely passing judgement. Mr. McGlynn felt Donna Benton was quite capable of handling this area if and when the time comes.

John Grauman made a motion to accept the budget. John McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that the National Rehabilitation Committee Conference would be held February 15, 1981 through February 19, 1981. John McGlynn moved that Mr. Armstrong attend. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

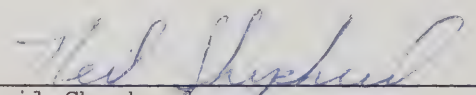
Dave Armstrong next pointed out that moving Fred Olson to Havre has posed a problem. In order to receive O.J.T. pay a person has to have close supervision and work directly with someone. Since he is alone in the office he is in jeopardy of losing this O.J.T. money. Mr. Armstrong stated he has written a letter to the Veterans Administration advising them that Fred is being supervised through the Helena Office but it will probably be denied. There is an appeal process however that would take two or three months and Fred would end up in an overpaid status if that were denied also. John Grauman then made a motion that if the O.J.T. is discontinued that Fred be upgraded to a 10 as soon as possible. This was seconded by John McGlynn and the motion carried.

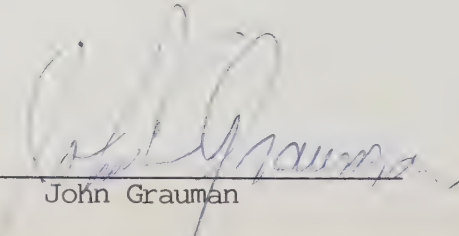
The next order of business was to hire a replacement for the Administrative Secretaries job. Mr. Armstrong informed the Board that since the position was in the bargaining unit the job had to be advertized through out the S. R.S. Department. He had received several applications. The Board viewed the applications and John McGlynn made a motion to promote Marie Hinman to the job. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried. John Grauman asked Mr. Armstrong to now accept applications to fill Marie Hinman's vacant job. Vince Caciari suggested that Mr. Armstrong could use his discretion and hire someone rather than mailing the applications to the Board for a vote. This was agreeable to all. He also asked him to do what was necessary to upgrade the job.

At this point Tim Jones joined the meeting and was introduced to the Board. John Grauman explained to Tim that what we wanted to do as far as upgrading the Service Officers to a grade 12 and possibly the Secretaries to a grade 11, changing their titles to Assistant Service Officers. Mr Jones pointed out that this could only be done if the Secretary functioned as the Service Officer a certain percent of the time. He said we should decide what minimum qualifications we wanted and go from there. After much discussion John Grauman made a motion that we set a target date of January 1, 1981 to have this project completed. John McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Grauman requested a copy of the Service Officer Says Column be sent to the field offices, and Marilyn Combs a new Service Officers manual. He brought up the fact that he had visited the Billings Office and found 30 to 40% of old claims incomplete. A discussion was held concerning the office equipment in Billings and it was decided that a requisition should be sent in for what they need.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.


Neil Shepherd


John Grauman

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs convened at 10:00 A.M. on January 9, 1981 in the office of David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator, with the following members present:

Neil Shepherd, Chairman
John Grauman, Secretary
Vince Caciari, Member
John McGlynn, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Admin.
Marie Hinman, Admin. Sec.

It was noted that Joe Eskildsen was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

Before the scheduled agenda began Mr. Edward Kudrna from Billings appeared before the Board as he had been informed we would possibly have an opening in our Havre Office and he wished to apply. The Board interviewed him, however they did advise him that due to the possible closing of the office in Havre that a job there might not exist.

At this point Mr. John LaFaver, the new Director of S.R.S. joined the meeting and was introduced to the Board. He stated he had nothing of great importance to discuss other than he felt we would have some "hassle" with the Legislature over the funding for the secretaries at Fort Harrison. He did point out that Judge's budget included them and was certain that Ted Schwinden's would also. John Grauman brought up the subject of the proposed reclassifications of some of our employees. Mr. LaFaver stated that the money for these pay increases would be included in the budget if they are approved. The Board pointed out that through the services of our offices that approximately \$6.00 is returned for every \$1.00 spent. Mr. LaFaver then excused himself from the meeting as he was due at another appointment. The Board thanked him for taking the time to meet with them.

Neil Shepherd, Chairman, officially then called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to each Board member and they were approved.

Under Old Business, Dave Armstrong reported that on the report to the Legislature that the basic material had been gone over with the Director's Office however the Veterans Administration money figures would not be with this. The Veterans Administration figure included all operating expenses with the hospital so it makes the figures higher. We would have to depend on the format of the Director's Office which would leave out reference to money according to counties.

Mr. Armstrong then advised the Board that on the classifications upgrade that he had met with Don Coburn of the Classification Bureau. Mr. Coburn thought the possibility looked good, however, he was concerned with the Trainees. He stated they were in a different category than a regular Service Officer. The request for the additional funds for these positions has been submitted.

The next item discussed was Governor Judge's budget. Mr. Armstrong said he had the figures on what we would have to work with for the next two years. The appropriations for office equipment was a concern. He did state however that some things could be obtained from the S.R.S. Department. The salaries of the Secretaries at Fort Harrison were set

up on a contract basis with the D.A.V. and the V.F.W. and were the equivalent to a grade 7 which is well over minimum wage. The biggest factor with the budget lies in the fact that it does not allow for terminal leave. This could be a major problem as we have two employees, Mr. Daley and Mr. Armstrong nearing retirements. He did state however that it would be Ted Schwinden's budget that we are locked into.

Mr. Armstrong then reported to the Board that he had hired Mrs. Vicky Score to fill the vacant position of Clerk IV in the Helena Office. She would begin employment on the 20th day of January. John Grauman made a motion she be approved. Neil Shepherd seconded it and the motion carried.

Under the heading of new business the claims for November and December were viewed and approved.

The subject of the Havre Office was then discussed. Dave Armstrong suggested the closure of the office. Jack McGlynn stated he was against the closure of any office. Mr. Armstrong then pointed out that the number of contacts were just not enough to justify having an office located in Havre. He proposed this could be taken care of out of the Great Falls office on an itinerant basis. He further stated that when he talked to Fred Olson, at the time he resigned to go back to school that Fred indicated he would like to come back to work for the Division after he has earned his degree. Mr. Armstrong suggested to the Board that we could keep Fred on as a $\frac{1}{2}$ time employee out of the Great Falls office if it would work out with his schedule. The only other alternative would be to cut the Miles City secretary to $\frac{1}{2}$ time and hire another full time trainee. John Grauman then put in the form of a motion that we retain Fred on a $\frac{1}{2}$ time basis if he is agreeable. Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried. Fred was contacted by telephone and was most eager to remain with the Division on a 20 hour a week schedule. The details could be worked out with Mr. Riley, Service Officer in Great Falls.

Mr. Armstrong then brought up the topic of the Lobbyist Law. He informed the Board that an individual has to be registered and pay a fee of \$10.00 or it is against the law to lobby in any form. There is however, an injunction against this law and at the present time it is in court but if the court rules in favor of the law it could revert back to day one of the Legislative session. There is a penalty of not less than \$250.00 or more than \$750.00 if one is found guilty of lobbying without a license. Mr. Armstrong has of this day sent a directive to all field offices informing them of this.

Mr. Armstrong advised the Board that the hearing with the joint appropriations subcommittee for our Division would be held on Wednesday, January 14, 1981 at 8 A.M. Jack McGlynn and Neil Shepherd were asked to accompany Mr. Armstrong to the hearing.

Mr. Armstrong asked for approval to write a letter to the Department of Washington State Veterans Affairs to see if he could sit in on a delayed stress seminar to be held in Spokane on April 17, 1981. John Grauman made a motion to approve this, Jack McGlynn seconded it and the motion carried.

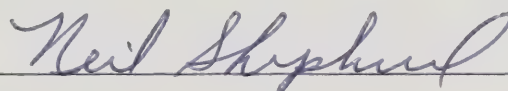
Vince Caciari suggested that Mr. Armstrong write a letter to the

Department of Public Institutions concerning appropriation of additional money for Columbia Falls for an addition to the nursing home section. It was agreed that this be done.

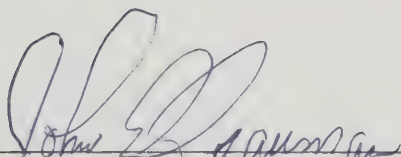
John McGlynn stated that the Service Officers should be directed that they should not advertize any job within the Division until it becomes official. He also asked about putting Donna Benton into the Service Officer position in Butte upon Mr. Daley's retirement. Mr. Armstrong stated that he felt that the job should be advertized in the division. A discussion was held concerning Donna's absenteeism in the last month. This could have been an unusual situation and it was decided to withhold any judgement at this time.

A motion was made by John Grauman that the next meeting be scheduled for the 3rd of April, 1981, unless because of the legislature being in session an emergency meeting should be called sooner. This would be left up to the discretion of David Armstrong. Vince Cacarai seconded the motion and it was carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.



Neil Shepherd, Chairman



John Grauman, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on April 3, 1981 in the office of David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator, Veterans Affairs Division in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Chairman, Neil Shepherd with the following members in attendance:

Neil Shepherd, Chairman	David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
John McGlynn, Member	Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Vince Caciari, Member	
Joe Eskildsen, Member	

It was noted that John Grauman was unable to attend due to his recent accident.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to each member and they were approved as written.

Under old business the status of the bills pending in the legislature was the first order of business. Mr. Armstrong briefed the Board on where the various bills concerning veterans and the Veterans Affairs Division were at this given point in time.

Next on the agenda was the budget. Mr. Armstrong advised the Board that the legislature had cut our F.T.E.'s from $22\frac{1}{2}$ to $20\frac{1}{2}$. Then if the legislature does not add the additional \$37,000.00 requested for our upgrades we will have to cut back 2 more F.T.E.'s leaving a total of $18\frac{1}{2}$ employees. This is a reduction of 4 employees.

At this point Tony Cumming of the American Legion and Bob Durkee of the V.F.W. joined the meeting. More discussion was held concerning the additional \$37,000 needed for upgrades and it was decided that several legislators should be contacted personally and also Tom Schneider of the Montana Public Employees Association and ask for their help and support.

Mr. Durkee stated that he had been informed by James Larson, acting Director of the Veterans Administration Center at Fort Harrison, that he had attended a conference in Denver and that the tentative plan was to close Miles City and Fort Harrison hospitals. The public should be made aware and get the veterans up in arms to stop this action.

The Bills concerning Columbia Falls and Galen were brought up and discussed. Mr. Armstrong pointed out that no matter where the Veterans Home is located we have to get people to stand behind them in support. It was noted that in all probability if Galen is converted into a Veterans Home that it and Columbia Falls would be run under one Administrator.

Mr. Armstrong showed the Board the new monthly Activity Report Forms and Tabulation Sheets we are now using. These had been sent over to the sub-committee on appropriations for comment, however, we have had no response.

Jack McGlynn presented a letter to the Board he had received from Jack Whalen of the American Bar Association concerning reimbursement for representing veterans before the VA. Dave Armstrong stated that Title 38 U.S. Codes limits a fee to \$10.00 that can be charged for these services. Mr. McGlynn said he would send Mr. Whalen a reply to the letter.

Dave Armstrong informed the Board that SB 387 (To re-establish the Board of

Veterans Affairs) was in the Governor's office. Also the appropriations committee had approved funds for STS lines and 20¢ a mile for travel.

Vince Caciari inquired about our budget for the remainder of the beinnium. Dave Armstrong briefed them on the outstanding bills. Mr. Caciari suggested that we should not be in the position to have to turn any money back.

Under New Business the claims were viewed and approved.

The resignations of Van Thomas and Skip McLees were discussed. Dave Armstrong stated that there had been a hiring freeze put on by the Department but it was now lifted. It was also noted that Darrell Murray in Billings was going to be admitted to the hospital thus leaving Marilyn Combs alone in that office. Various options were discussed on how to re-distribute our employees to be most effective in serving the areas in the State. It was decided not to fill these two positions until we had a firm budget. The other vacancy ($\frac{1}{2}$ time in Helena) left by the resignation of Vickey Score could be filled immediately.

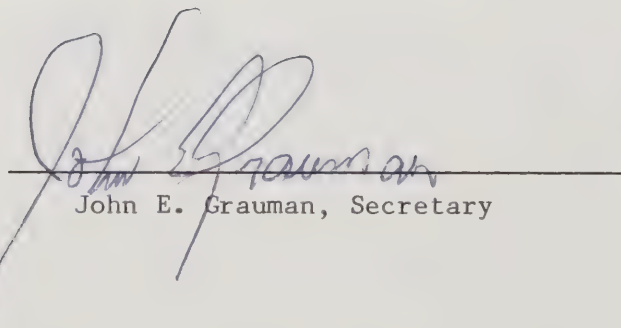
Dave Armstrong asked the direction of the Board on what to do about Donna Benton (trainee in Butte). She had had an absenteeism of 42% since she began employment in December. John McGlynn suggested we give her another month. He pointed out that she had been in the hospital and felt her back problems were straightened out. A release from the doctor was also presented and the doctor felt she could return to work with no more problems. Vince Cacari stated he agreed with Mr. McGlynn, a discussion followed and it was agreed by the Board to give her another month. Mr. Armstrong was directed to advise the Board at the end of this time as to the results.

There being no further business Vince Caciari made a motion the meeting be adjourned.

The next meeting has been set for June 12th in Kalispell.



Neil Shepherd, Chairman



John E. Grauman, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on June 12, 1981 at the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell, Montana. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Neil Shepherd with the following members and guests present:

John Grauman, Secretary
John McGlynn, Member
Vince Caciari, Member
Joe Eskildsen, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Dick Orman
Mr. and Mrs. Al Miron
Bob Ruhl
Arlene Soderstrom

The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to each member and they were approved as written.

Under the heading of Old Business, Mr. Armstrong informed the Board that the T.V. Tapes Earl Vermillion made advising veterans where they can go to obtain help and information regarding V.A. benefits had been mailed out to Billings, Butte, Missoula and Helena. These tapes are 30 seconds long and hopefully will produce some results.

The budget for the next biennium was then discussed. The Legislature did not approve the additional funding for the upgrades which means we only will have funding for 18½ persons. This was a cut back of \$19,000.00 for the first year and \$20,000.00 for the second.

On the new statistical reporting, the first run on the computer was distributed to each Board member. Dave Armstrong explained how the unduplicated count works and also noted that our count is short of what we had for last year. Neil Shepherd asked if this had satisfied the sub-committee on appropriations. Mr. Armstrong pointed out that the quarterly report would not be submitted until July and then we would know for sure. The cost of the program was also discussed. The Board was informed that the program probably would not cost as much as we had originally figured on which was \$2500.00.

Adoptors release for Darrell Murray, Service Officer in Billings who has been on extended sick leave was presented to the Board. A summary should be forth coming.

The hiring of Gloria Jean Blattler for a clerk typist in Helena and Cheryl Spencer for the secretary position in Billings was approved.

New business was now in order. John Grauman made a motion to place Darrell Murray from Billings in Miles City. Joe Eskildsen seconded the motion and it was carried. He would be allowed around \$1,000.00 to move but not until after July.

The upcoming vacant Service Officer job in Butte was discussed. The job would be offered to any Service Officer who wished to transfer to Butte. If no one with more seniority than Fred Olson was interested then the position would be his as he had already expressed his desire to move to Butte. John McGlynn made a motion to this effect, John Grauman seconded it and the motion was carried.

John McGlynn made an inquiry as to the transferring of mileage money from one office to another. Dave Armstrong stated that this could be done as the money is flexible.

Joe Eskildsen asked for a report on how much money our budget had left. Dave Armstrong informed the Board the figure was around \$900.00.

Dick Orman displayed the signs he uses on his car to advertize the Division. John Grauman made a motion that we supply the other Service Officers with similar signs if they so desire. Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Grauman made a motion to also supply desk markers with the individuals name on them to anyone desiring them. Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Dave Armstrong then explained to the Board that S.R.S. would only get 75% of the Federal money for the next biennium and it may have an effect on our budget. John LaFaver, Director of S.R.S., had asked him to design a plan that would save money from our budget as our money is lumped with the S.R.S. budget and not seperated out. Since most of our money is for personal services this would mean cutting employees. Much discussion was held and the general opinion of the Board was that they would not allow this to happen.

The Regional 8 American Legion Conference will be held in Helena on September 12th and 13th at the Colonial Inn. Dave Armstrong has been asked to chair the conference. There are no details as of yet but will send copies of the agenda to the Board members when we recieve it.

This should be the year for the Insurance Training Seminar in Minneapolis and Dave Armstrong asked the permission of the Board to send one of our Service Officers. Al Miron, who has been to a training session, pointed out that he felt that this training was very valuable. John Grauman made a motion to send a Service Officer to the session in Minneapolis, but after a brief discussion the motion was tabled until the next meeting.

The annual training session at Fort Harrison will be in October again this year. John Grauman made a motion to bring the Service Officers and Secretaries in again to attend. Joe Eskildsen seconded the motion and it was carried.

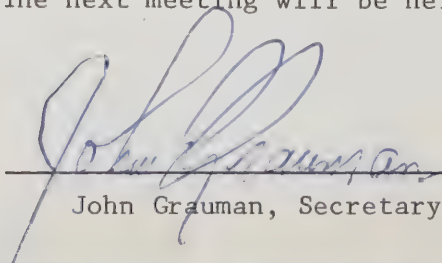
The Legislature appropriated \$50,000.00 for a State Veterans Cemetery. The money was given to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. Phil Hauck, Administrator of the Architecure and Engineering Division of the Department of Administration has conferred with Mr. Armstrong and asked that the Veterans Affairs Division accept the responsibility of the cemetery. The \$50,000.00 State money will be matched by \$50,000.00 from the Government which will give us \$100,000.00 to work with. The land will be acquired by a land swap between a rancher and the County and the site will be at Old Fort Custer. This will be approximently 90 acres. With the understanding that the piece of land is available, John Grauman made a motion, Jack McGlynn seconded it and it was carried that the Veterans Affairs Division accept the responsibility of the cemetery subject to the following condition:

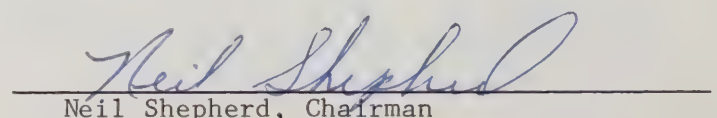
They be given the authority to operate the cemetery, set the rules contract services, establish and maintain it and handle all finances.

Vince Cacari made a motion for the election of new officers. Neil Shepherd seconded it and the motion carried. Joe Eskildsen will be the new Chairman, Vince Caciari the Vice-Chairman and Jack McGlynn the Secretary.

The Board then went into an executive session and adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

The next meeting will be held in Helena in September.


John Grauman, Secretary


Neil Shepherd, Chairman

1981

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on September 11, ¹⁹⁸¹ in the Veterans Affairs Division office in Helena, Montana.

Before the meeting was called to order Mr. Phil Hauck from the Architecture and Engineering Department appeared before the Board to brief the members of the Cemetery Project.

HB 666, introduced by Thomas R. Conroy from Hardin, appropriated \$50,000 from the Long Range Building Fund to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department for the acquisition and development of a cemetery at the Old Fort Custer site.

An executive order (#15-81) changed this and designated the Veterans Affairs Division as custodian of the State Veterans Cemetery.

An appraisal had been received but the amount of acres we want had to be defined. The Federal Grant is still pending. The VA will match the \$50,000.00 plus the value of the land. The amount of land necessary was discussed and it was determined we accept as much as they offer or at least 90 acres to allow for future expansion. The amount of burial plots per acre ranges from 500 to 600 per acre. By having 90 acres, this would allow for at least 54,000 burial plots.

Mr. Hauck explained that we will be starting from scratch and will have to build roads, obtain water, landscape the ground and erect a building. All the work has to be let out on bids. All this will be handled through the Department of Architecture and Engineering plus taking care of all monetary expenditures which result from the construction.

As the H.K.M. Engineering Firm has had dealings with the Bighorn County before, the State has hired them to work with us on the project. It was decided to ask the firm to meet with the Board at the next meeting which would be the Wednesday before the Training Session at Fort Harrison.

Mr. Hauck stated he would be working very closely with us on the project and do whatever necessary to meet with our approval. If all goes well, the project should be ready to start next Spring.

The meeting was then called to order by Joe Eskildsen, Chairman, with the following members and guests present:

John McGlynn, Secretary
John E. Grauman, Member
Neil Shepherd, Member
Vince Caciari, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Marie S. Hinman, Admin. Secretary
Bill Heikinen, Guest

The minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to each member and they were approved as written.

Under old business, Mr. Armstrong, advised the Board that the S.R.S. Legal Department has sent the Bighorn County Commission a deed form for signatures, recording, etc.. They have asked how many acres we need. Joe Eskildsen suggested we ask for 120 acres and accept 90. We would only develop a portion now but this would allow for future expansion.

The dates for the Fort Harrison Training Session have not yet been established. Gary Lewis, Veterans Service Officer is trying to establish a date that is agreeable with everyone concerned. The training session has been limited to one day and when the exact date is known everyone will be informed. John Grauman made a motion to bring in all the field staff (Service Officers and Secretaries), Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Insurance Seminar in Minneapolis, Minnesota has been scheduled for October 6th and 7th. A discussion was held on who to send. Mr. Armstrong pointed out that the Service Officer with the most seniority should be the one to go however it is important to train Service Officers in the more heavily populated areas also. Jack McGlynn questioned if we could send two. If it was decided we could and he then put it in the form of a motion. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried. The two Service Officers selected were Fred Olson in Butte and Dick Orman from Missoula.

Walter Marshall from the VFW joined the meeting at this time. He wanted to discuss President Reagan's Bill that would discontinue veterans death burial benefits. He asked that the Veterans Affairs Division write a letter to the four Congressmen expressing our views against the Bill. The Bill would limit the burial benefits to only those veterans who are in receipt of compensation or pension. The \$150.00 plot allowance will remain, only the \$300.00 burial benefit would be cut. Joe Eskildsen, Chairman, requested Mr. Armstrong to write these letters on behalf of the Board.

Mike Wolf turned down the Service Officer position in Billings as the cost of moving at this time is prohibitive. He will remain the Service Officer in Wolf Point and Darrell Murray has assumed the duties of the Billings office.

At the request of the Governor, Bob Ruhl was given permission to attend the Montana portion of the dedication of the Medal of Honor Grove. Bob's brother was honored as a Medal of Honor recipient. This was held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and upon his return Bob reported that he was very impressed and treated royally.

On August 11, 1981, Dave Armstrong attended a meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee and gave our first report to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. They have suggested we devise a system to determine a weighting factor to the work we do and also the question was raised on how we measure the success of what we do. A discussion was held and it was decided to solicit the help of Doug Eagen, Chief of the Statistics and Research Bureau, in applying a weighting factor on our claims. Joe Eskildsen suggested we answer the question on how to measure success as simply as possible. Being able to help the veteran and or their dependents is success.

Dave Armstrong also informed the Board that in addition to what we were doing in the line of keeping statistics, we are also now keeping track of the type and monetary amounts of each award for every county.

Under the heading of new business, the claims were viewed and approved.

A letter of commendation from the VA Hospital in Miles City was presented to the Board. The letter praised Etta Jaeger for the outstanding job she has been doing as Acting Service Officer since April 1980. John Grauman made a motion to accept the letter and place it on file. John McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Dave Armstrong read a letter to the Board he had written to James Foley, Executive Director of the Montana Health Systems Agency in Helena. This letter concerns the need for additional nursing care beds at the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. Vince Caciari will be attending the Northwestern Subarea Advisory Council Meeting on September 16th in Columbia Falls and will read Dave's letter as a follow up to this matter.

Joe Eskildsen brought to the attention of the Board his concern about Darrell Murray in the Billings office. A discussion was held and the general opinion of the Board was that if there is not a definite improvement in Darrell by the next Board meeting that they would consider his termination.

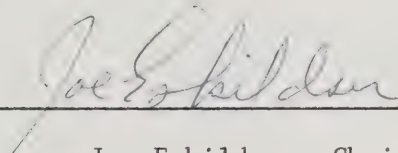
Dave Armstrong informed the Board that an Office Procedure Manual is in the process of being drawn up and should be ready for distribution in October.

Jack McGlynn inquired about brief cases for the Service Officers and could they be ordered through the Veterans Affairs Division? His question was answered favorably and this will be done.

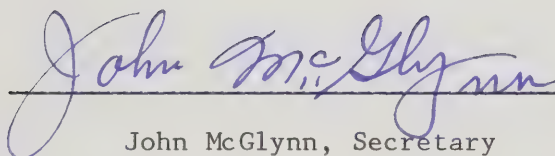
The Board also voted to increase the per diem for Board members from \$25.00 to \$30.00 a day.

A short recess was held. The Board reconvened to interview applicants for the Service Officer position in Miles City. Jim Peterson, from Miles City, was selected and he will begin work on the 21st of September.

The Board then went into a executive session and adjourned at 3:45 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled to coincide with the Training Session at Fort Harrison which will probably be in late October or early November. When a definite date has been established, the Board will be notified.



Joe Eskildsen, Chairman



John McGlynn, Secretary

On the morning of October 30, 1981 the Board of Veterans Affairs met with the Staff of the Veterans Affairs Division with the agenda as follows:

Welcome by Joe Eskildsen, Chairman of the Board.

Bob Ruhl, Service Officer from Bozeman gave a brief summary of his attendance at the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Fred Olson of the Butte office and Dick Orman from Missoula outlined their attendance at the Insurance Seminar in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Doug Egan, Chief of the Statistics and Research Bureau gave a brief summary concerning the statistics the individual offices have been keeping.

Marie Hinman and Earl Vermillion from the Helena Office discussed office procedure and requisitions and equipment.

Al Miron and Arlene Soderstrom from Kalispell and Ruddy Reilly and Diana Nisbet from Great Falls gave a short presentation of how they operate their individual field offices.

Dave Armstrong, Administrator, completed the meeting with closing remarks.

The regular meeting was then called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Joe Eskildsen, Chairman, with the following members and guests present:

John McGlynn, Secretary	David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
John E. Grauman, Member	Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Neil Shepherd, Member	Bob Durkee, Guest
Vince Caciari, Member	Bob Weicoff, Guest

Under old business, the Veterans Cemetery was first on the agenda. Joe Eskildsen read an outline of the program for development written by the H.K.M. Company for the Veterans Cemetery. Since the proposed site has been determined to be unsuitable by the Board it was suggested that we contact Tom Conroy from Hardin, and see what could be done to change the location. John Grauman made a motion to table the Cemetery Project until the next meeting and the location could be changed. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Dave Armstrong reported that he had received Congressional replies concerning his letters on the burial fund cuts and can expect reasonable support from all of them.

Dave Armstrong reported on the Administrative review hearing on the Veterans Home expansion and stated that we should be prepared for opposition from the Montana Nursing Home Association.

The Billings office situation was discussed and Dave Armstrong reported to the Board that he had had a talk with Mr. Murray and felt that with the proper training he could make a good Service Officer and at the present time was not prepared to terminate him. The Board concurred.

Under new business, a letter written by Mike Thompson, District Council and James McFarland, General Attorney at Fort Harrison, was read commending Tom Hamilton, Claims Examiner, Veterans Affairs Division at Fort Harrison, on his assistance to a disabled veteran.

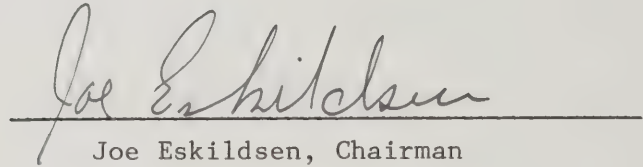
A letter was also read written by a veteran in the Missoula area thanking Dick Orman for all his help.

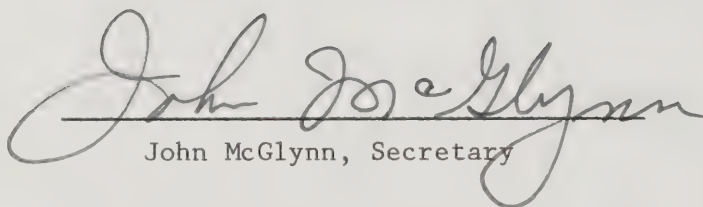
Dave Armstrong advised the Board that he had been reappointed to the Region 8, Rehabilitation Commission of the American Legion. The Board directed that this be accepted and filed with the minutes.

Earl Vermillion joined the meeting and brought to the attention of the Board the lack of direction the VA seems to be taking concerning patients and patient care at Fort Harrison. He cited a specific case and the Board agreed that this should be looked into.

There being no further business Jack McGlynn moved to adjourn, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

The next meeting has been scheduled for December 4, 1981 at 2:00 P.M.


Joe Eskildsen, Chairman


John McGlynn, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman, Joe Eskildsen, on the 12th day of December, 1981 at 1:00 P.M. in the State Veterans Affairs Office in Helena. The following members were present:

John McGlynn, Secretary
John E. Grauman, Member
Neil Shepherd, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary

The Board was advised that Vince Caciari was unable to attend due to road conditions.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Armstrong opened the meeting by reporting that he had discussed with the VA the problem veterans are having being admitted to the VA facilities. They recognized the situation and will use a more liberal policy. Following a brief discussion it was decided to follow up on individual cases and see what could be done to assist these veterans.

The meeting moved on to the Cemetery Project. Dave Armstrong reported that he had talked with Jim Court, Superintendent of the Custer Battlefield Cemetery and the proposal in question was to make a land swap with the Indians to acquire land next to Custer Battlefield. This would mean we could work on a share basis for maintenance and caretaker for both cemeteries. Since the Indian Tribe was willing to swap, Kelly Blake from the Bureau of Lands was contacted to see if this was a possibility. He informed us the State Land was used to provide income for schools. Chairman Joe Eskildsen at this time called Garth Moon, Commissioner of State Lands, to discuss our proposal. Although he was unable to talk with Mr. Moon a meeting was set up with Scotty Trenk to meet at Hardin and view the site in question, discuss what we need and go from there. This was put in the form of a motion by John Grauman, seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried. Joe Eskildsen will make a report at the next meeting.

The statistics for the Division were then discussed. Dave explained that Doug Egan, Statistician for the Department, is working on a weighting factor and should be able to provide us with information in the near future. He also pointed out that the unduplicated individual contacts were running above 50% which was higher than we had expected. Joe Eskildsen suggested that when we meet with the Sub-Committee on Human Services that we inform them that we feel we have improved our position by keeping these statistics. We can now see what we are doing. Although there are some offices that are low on contacts we are still providing quality service and if the office is generating more than it costs to run it, its very worthwhile.

Dave read the narrative he had written on what is considered "Success". A discussion was held and Joe Eskildsen suggested it be concluded "With your continued support and our continued dedication, we will continue to give the most successful service to veterans".

Under new business, Dave passed out the new Montana Codes concerning veterans to each Board member.

The claims were viewed and approved.

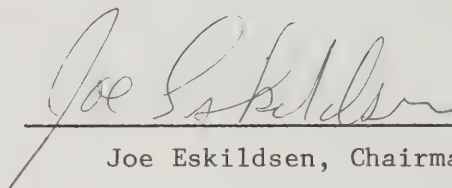
The question has come up concerning moving our office in Missoula to a new building called the Veterans Service Center. Jack McGlynn pointed out it would be advantageous as far as location. John Grauman made a motion, Jack McGlynn seconded it and it was passed that Dave Armstrong acquire all the information and report at the next meeting.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Conference in Washington D.C. will be held on February 15th through the 17th. Neil Shepherd made a motion, John Grauman seconded it and it was passed that Dave Armstrong attend.

Dave Armstrong called to the attention of the Board that a former employee, Donna Benton, has filed a discrimination grievance against the Division. Although the Human Services Division have forwarded the preliminaries, we have not yet been informed what she is seeking. The subject was tabled pending the conditions.

The next meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the Interim Finance Committee meeting in January. Joe Eskildsen will inform us of an exact date at a later time.

Jack McGlynn moved to adjourn, John Grauman seconded the motion and it was passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.



Joe Eskildsen, Chairman



John McGlynn, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order on the 22nd day of January, 1982, in Room 107 in the Social and Rehabilitation Services Building. Due to the absence of Chairman, Joe Eskildsen and Vice-Chairman Vince Caciari; Jack McGlynn, Secretary, presided over the meeting. Others in attendance were:

Neil Shepherd, Member
John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary

Max Wise, Guest, Missoula
Philip Burgess, Guest, Missoula
Bill Wilson, Guest, Helena VFW Adjutant Quartermaster

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with, as the minutes had been mailed to each Board member.

The Cemetery project was the first on the agenda. Joe Eskildsen had communicated with Dave Armstrong, and reported that the site he had viewed would be satisfactory. It was agreed to go ahead with the plans to secure the land in question. This will have to be accomplished by trading State Land for Indian Tribal land. A motion was made by Neil Shepherd, seconded by John Grauman and passed that Dave Armstrong write a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs of our intentions. This will be reported on at the next meeting.

Dave Armstrong reported that he has heard nothing official of the new Veterans Service Center in Missoula.

Max Wise and Phillip Burgess were then introduced to the Board Members and related their interest in attending the meeting. Both gentlemen are veterans counsellors at the University of Montana. Their primary work is the Viet Nam veterans, however they have found veterans of other Wars are also seeking them out. They pointed out that their time is limited and they have been spending several hours a week on volunteer time. They are anxious to centralize veterans services and the Veterans Service Center in Missoula would be the answer. The big problem they are facing at this time is financial support. They felt that if all Veterans Organizations were made aware of the Center that through cooperation, the Center could become a reality. John Grauman suggested that a column be run in the VFW, DAV and American Legion papers. This will be done. A discussion was held concerning veterans and the problems they are facing. The Agent Orange issue was also mentioned. It was pointed out that all these veterans who may have been exposed should be urged to have an examination at a VA Hospital and have their symptoms on record. Mr. Wise and Mr. Burgess thanked everyone for listening and excused themselves from the meeting.

Dave Armstrong went into the statistics of the Division. He explained his narrative on how we measure success. The members were handed a copy of our statistical report. The unduplicated count is high and that is good. Some offices contact count is down and we may have trouble justifying keeping them open. On the weighting factor, the average contact time ranges from 11 to 44 minutes per contact. John McGlynn raised the question as to the time put in on adjudication of a claim. Dave Armstrong explained that there is no way of dealing with the time measurement of adjudicating a claim as some cases that are appealed as a last ditch effort may take up to two years before a final decision is rendered. He also stated that the over-all count of all the offices is down, and in his opinion, that if things don't improve, the legislature will cut our budget and force us to close offices.

Under new business, Dave Armstrong suggested that we re-distribute the areas served to include Malta in the Wolf Point territory and Lewistown and Winnett in the Bozeman area. These are currently being serviced by Great Falls. This would help to bring up the contact count in these two offices. The Board concurred. The Miles City office is of concern also. Because of the Veterans Hospital being located

there, it would be impractical to close this office.

The Regular Veterans Association has requested the Veterans Affairs Division to act as a representative for them. The association is well established as it was organized in 1880. A motion was made by John Grauman, seconded by Neil Shepherd and passed that we represent them.

Dave Armstrong read a newspaper clipping concerning Tom Hamilton receiving a Public Service Award for service above the call of duty, from the Veterans Administration.

John Grauman made a motion to write a letter to the Governor to re-appoint Board members. A discussion was held and since this has never been done in the past, the motion was tabled.

The claims were viewed and approved.

John Grauman made a motion that Cheryl Spencer, Secretary in the Billings office, be allowed to attend some educational classes in Billings. A discussion was held and it was determined that the money was not available from the Division and if one were allowed to do this it would have to be made available to all. Jack McGlynn felt it would be beneficial and John Grauman suggested that we could take turns throughout the offices. The motion, however, was tabled indefinitely.

Dave Armstrong informed the Board that Diana Nisbet, secretary in the Great Falls office, had had a burn accident and was in the Burn Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was not known at this time how extensive a convalescence period she will need.

Jack McGlynn brought up the situation with the Butte office. The present office is small and people have had to be seated in the hallway while waiting to see the Service Officer. The Fire Marshall in Butte said this is against regulations and will have to be discontinued. Dr. St. John contacted Mr. McGlynn and advised him that the office in the front of the building was vacant and we could move our office in there. It is a larger office, however, the rent would be higher. Dr. St. John offered to lower the rent by \$80.00 a month because we are a veterans organization. The original cost was \$300.00 a month minus the \$80.00 which would make it \$220.00 monthly. The staff in the Butte office suggested they do their own janitorial service which would be an additional \$20.00 a month and Jack McGlynn offered to rent the extra space in the office for \$15.00 a month. The heat and lights are included in the rent. John Grauman made a motion to move the office, Neil Shepherd seconded it and it was passed.

Dave Armstrong reminded the Board that financially the Division will have to save enough money for his terminal leave when he retires next January or the Division will be without a Director for an undetermined period of time.

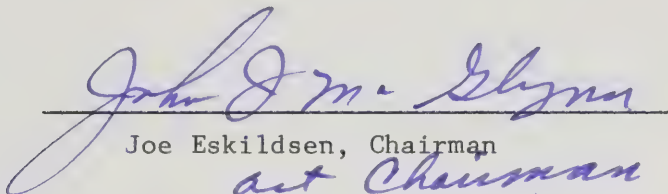
Bill Wilson pointed out to the Board that he thought the Veterans Affairs Division should have more exposure at the Veterans Administration. The sign on the door says American Legion. Dave Armstrong advised that the reason for this is that the Veterans Affairs Division is not chartered by Congress and VA only provides space for chartered organizations.

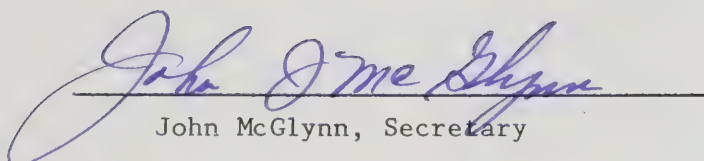
Jack McGlynn advised the Board he has had a resolution put through the VFW concerning the cutting of the Veterans Affairs Division funds.

The next meeting has been scheduled for the first Friday in April which will be

the 2nd of the month at 10:00 A.M.

There being no further business, John Grauman made a motion to adjourn, Neil Shepherd seconded it and it was carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:19 P.M.


Joe Eskildsen, Chairman
act Chairman


John McGlynn, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Joe Eskildsen on the 2nd day of April, 1982, in Room 107 in the Social and Rehabilitation Services Building. The following members and guests were present:

John Grauman, Member	David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Jack McGlynn, Secretary	Marie S. Hinman, Admin. Secretary
Joan Uda, VAD Legal Counsel	

Vice-Chairman, Vince Caciari and Neil Shepherd, Member, were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Before the normal order of business began, Joan Uda, Legal Counsel for the Veterans Affairs Division on the Donna Benton case against the Division, was introduced to the Board. Mrs. Uda stated that the interrogatory had been sent to her and that she had answered it. She has since called the Human Rights and asked for the status on the case but had had no results. She explained that at some point there would be a meeting set up with Donna for an informal hearing and if the case could be resolved at that time it would be stopped there. If not, then it would go to a formal hearing. The complaints Donna has filed against the Division are sex and handicap discrimination which Mrs. Uda read to the Board. Jack McGlynn stated that he felt the reason Miss Benton had filed her complaint was the discrepancies in the reason for her termination. The discrepancies involved were Mr. McGlynn had informed her she was being terminated due to a reduction in force and Mr. Armstrong terminated her because of her lack of attendance on the job. Mr. Armstrong pointed out to the Board that a person cannot be fired due to a reduction in force when actually the funds were available. Mr. McGlynn also stated that he felt that Donna's back condition and the working conditions in Butte were also a factor for her not being on the job regularly. Joe Eskildsen brought up the fact that Donna was questioned about her back when she was hired and she told the Board she was physically fit. Joe also went on to say that he was sorry for her but felt that firing her was justified as she was warned and did nothing about it. Mr. McGlynn also asked the assistance of Mrs. Uda to look into the unemployment if she could to see why Donna has not been able to draw any. Joan stated she would try but was doubtful if she could find out anything. Mrs. Uda thanked the Board for their time and will keep them informed of the development of the case.

The meeting moved on to the regular order of business.

The Cemetery project was discussed. Dave flew to the Crow Agency on March 11, 1982 with Kelly Blake from the Land Board and met with Danetta Falls Down, Secretary of the committee that handles tribal lands. Dave explained to her our position and what we wanted as far as trading State land for Tribal land. Danetta told them she would write to Gareth Moon, Commissioner of State lands, to tell him what State land they want. This however had not yet been done. Kelly Blake will follow up on the matter to get things going. Dave Armstrong informed the Board that for the next biennium we will have to have a program modification for the budget. He showed the Board the figures he had drawn up. He also went on to say the land they had selected was adjacent to Custer Battlefield and runs over 100 acres. The water situation is good as we could tie into the Custer Battlefield water system. They would also like to share maintenance which would reduce our needs and help them to fill their time. Also, a man from Arizona is going to build an Indian Museum next to the Cemetery site. Joe Eskildsen directed Dave Armstrong to either call or write to Danetta and let her know we are very anxious to get this project started.

The Billings office situation, specifically Darrell Murray, was then discussed. Dave Armstrong stated that he felt that his efforts to help Mr. Murray had failed and he was now writing letters almost daily to get him to do things right and proper. There doesn't seem to be any improvement. A performance appraisal had been done on him and in his rebuttal Darrell was not willing to accept his own job performance but said he was getting blamed for the mistakes of his predecessors. More discussion was held and the end result was that Darrell Murray be given 30 days to make a substantial improvement or he would be terminated. Also, John Grauman, Board member from Billings, will counsel Darrell once a week on his job performance and send a report to the Helena office signed by Darrell, or in the event he refuses to sign the report then it will be signed by a witness to this effect. Jack McGlynn made a motion that this be done, John Grauman seconded it and the motion carried.

On Friday, March 26, 1982, Dave Armstrong appeared before the Legislative Finance Committee in regards to our statistical reporting. Pat Regan, Senator from Billings, complimented him for the good job he had done on the statistics and said she felt they had everything they needed now. We, however, are still waiting for the census figure on the veterans population and where they are located. Dave's opinion is that in the next budgeting of the Legislature that they are going to cut our money considerably. They won't tell us where to close down but without funds it would be inevitable.

At the last meeting of the Board it was voted to move the Butte office into a new location in the building they were in to give them more room. Jack McGlynn had offered to rent a small office within the office to cut down the cost. However, the way the lease was written there is no way of handling his portion of the rent. The two choices were to either re-negotiate the lease or just drop Jack's portion of the rent and the State would pick up all of it. John Grauman made a motion to leave the lease as is and the State should pay all the rent. Jack McGlynn seconded it and it was carried.

The claims were read and approved.

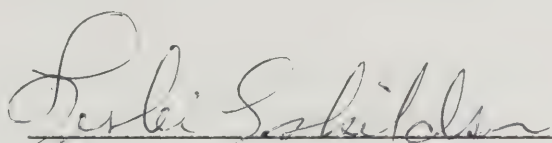
Under new business, John LaFaver, Director of S.R.S., has asked all Division Administrators to work up a proposal to spend in fiscal year 83 only 95% of fiscal year 82's appropriation. For the Veterans Affairs Division this amounts to approximately a 15% reduction or \$68,610.00 in 82-83's budget. Dave handed out to the Board the proposal he compiled which included the closing of some offices. Joe Eskildsen objected strongly to the closing of any office and suggested that the secretaries be removed or put on a half time basis and that we eliminate the Claims Officer position in the Helena office. The Administrator could handle both jobs on the basis of spending half a day in the State office and the other half at Fort Harrison. Dave Armstrong emphasized the importance of the Claims Officer job and that he felt it was necessary to have someone at the VA on more than a half time basis. At this point Jack McGlynn put in the form of a motion that if the Department does in fact ask for any of our funds that the Board would object strongly. In past years deductions have crippled the Veterans Affairs Division and any cuts in our funds at this time would be detrimental to the service in the field and curtail service to the veterans. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was passed.

Dave Armstrong informed the Board that he plans to retire on January 1, 1983. He has accumulated annual leave that will carry him on the payroll until approximately April 15th. The Board felt they should advertize the position at least 3 months prior to his leaving. They will screen the applications and reduce the number to 3 to 5 applicants to make the final choice from. Jack Stuart from the Personnel Office at S.R.S. has offered his assistance in the selection. More will be discussed on this at the next Board meeting. Dave again pointed out to the Board that enough money will have to be saved for his terminal leave or a replacement can't be employed until his leave runs out.

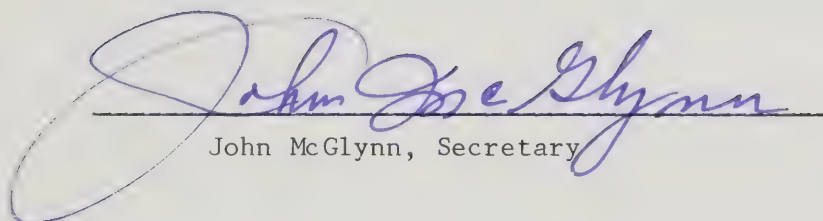
The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been overlooked at the beginning of the meeting, were at this time approved.

The Board then went into an executive session and adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

The next meeting has been scheduled for June 11, 1982 at 10:00 A.M.



Joe Eskildsen, Chairman



John McGlynn, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman, Joe Eskildsen, on June 4, 1982, at 10:00 A.M. in Room 107 of the Social and Rehabilitation Services Building. The following members and guests were present.

Vince Caciari, Vice Chairman
John McGlynn Secretary
John Grauman, Member

David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Darrell Murray, Service Officer - Billings
Kay Murray, wife of Darrell Murray

It was noted that Neil Shepherd was unable to attend due to recent surgery.

Chairman Eskildsen asked for a motion that the minutes be approved as mailed to each member, however, John Grauman and Jack McGlynn asked for a reading and also indicated to the Board that they felt the minutes could be more detailed. The minutes were read. There being no corrections or additions were approved as read.

The discrimination suit brought against the Division by Donna Benton, former employee from Butte, was first on the agenda. Dave Armstrong, Administrator, informed the Board that a hearing had been scheduled for the 25th of May which was postponed until June 7th and he had been recently notified that that hearing was also postponed. The Human Rights Division has indicated that they will hold individual interviews with those involved.

On the Cemetery project, Dave Armstrong advised the Board that he has been in touch with Jim Court of the State Land Board. Mr. Court told Dave that the individual who is responsible for looking after tribal lands had been contacted, however, they can't do anything until after their next Tribal Council Meeting. Danetta Falls Down, who we have been dealing with on the Tribal Land, has been elected Vice Chairman of the Tribal Council and has indicated to Dave that they are still very much interested in a land trade. They will arrange for a meeting with the State Land Board. Joe Eskildsen directed Dave Armstrong to call again if we haven't heard anything by the 12th day of June.

On Dave Armstrong's retirement, there have been no basic changes except that due to the recent raise in the rent of the Helena office in the Social and Rehabilitation Building it will cost the Division approximately \$900.00 more a year and this will eliminate some of the savings toward Mr. Armstrong's terminal pay.

The new business began with the election of new officers. Vince Caciari, who would be next in line for Chairmanship, declined in favor of retaining Joe Eskildsen for the next year. Jack McGlynn would become the new Vice Chairman and Neil Shepherd the new secretary. Joe accepted the office of Chairman for another year. Vince Caciari then put the proposal in the form of a motion, John Grauman seconded it and it was carried.

The claims were viewed and approved.

Concerning the guidelines for the budget, Dave Armstrong reported that as of this date he didn't have any, but since the budget has to be in by the 1st of August, he expected to be hearing something very soon. He suggested to the Board if they wanted to make any changes they should do so now.

John McGlynn suggested that perhaps we could cut down on our travel expenses by redistributing the territories in Billings, Butte and Bozeman, plus making some of these scheduled trips on a every other month basis. Also, the travel itinerary for Miles City could be done on a every other month basis all the time. Joe Eskildsen

Chairman, instructed Dave Armstrong to study the existing routes and determine what the savings would be by the redistribution of these offices. Mr. McGlynn also stated that the Service Officers involved had discussed this possibility and have no objections.

Vince Caciari brought to the attention of the Board the disadvantages of the office in Kalispell. It is located on the second floor of the Ford Building and is very difficult for the handicapped veterans to get to. There is no elevator and the stairway is the only recourse. The office itself is also small and more room would be welcomed. His suggestions was to check into the possibility of moving the office to the old hospital which is currently being used to house the County Agencies. He felt the rent would be very minimal if any at all. Chairman Eskildsen asked Mr. Caciari to look into the possibility and if it could be arranged that Dave Armstrong be authorized to make the move. The Board agreed.

Jack McGlynn proposed to the Board that when the Legislature meets that we ask to have the Veterans Affairs Division put under the Department of Military Affairs instead of the SRS. The Board felt that this was a good idea. Mr. McGlynn put his proposal in the form of a motion, John Grauman seconded it and it was carried. Dave Armstrong asked if this comes to pass, how to transfer over and Jack said we could just be attached as we are now. Jack will talk to the officer in charge and more discussion will be held at the next Board meeting. Joe suggested that this be limited to just one person to represent the Board. It was agreed.

Dave advised the Board concerning the Governor's Council of Management. There have been people working with the Department and he has met with them on two occasions. They will be going to our office in Missoula to see how we operate and then meet with him again with suggestions on how to manage better. They expect to have this project completed by the end of the month.

The State Board of Examiners will be eventually out of existence. Dave informed the Board that he had written a letter to Morris Bursett, Director of the Department of Administration to see if it would be possible to obtain the Military records of veterans that have applied for a State Bonus. The answer was favorable so we now have micro-film of the WW I, WW II and Korean veterans records and actual files of the VN veterans. This information may prove to be invaluable as the fire in the Federal Records Center has destroyed many veterans records.

Jack McGlynn brought to the attention of the Board that he feels that we have a need for better lobbying in the Legislature. His suggestion was to ask veterans for donations, the money would be put into a fund, drawing interest, and the only salaries to be paid from this money would be to lobbyists. A Board could be created, having a member or members from each Veterans Organization to serve on a volunteer basis. The lobbyists that are hired would be given full authority to carry out all mandates of the various organizations. Dave Armstrong said that he had just recently received literature from the State of Colorado on this very subject and we could follow their guidelines to help us put this idea together. Chairman Eskildsen indicated he thought this was a good suggestion and directed Jack to investigate the matter further.

John Grauman asked for clarification of the official titles of the girls in the field. Dave Armstrong told him they were classified as Administrative

Secretary l's. John was under the impression that they were Administrative Assistants as that was the original intent when they were reclassified. Dave agreed that that was what we had asked for but the Classification Bureau had decided differently.

John Grauman also asked that the people in the field be advised of their balance on sick and annual leave at the end of every month. Dave Armstrong said this could be done with no problem and that the new system on the payroll warrants will eventually carry this information.

At this time Joe Eskildsen directed the Board's attention to Darrell Murray, and Darrell's wife was introduced. Joe asked Darrell if he wanted to make a statement at this time and Darrell responded negatively but wanted to know what the allegations against him were. Joe informed him that the quality of his work being sent in for submission to Fort Harrison was not good. Dave was asked to give the Board more detail on the matter and he reported the area's that Darrell has been negligent are: failing to have claimants sign forms, not filling out forms completely or the use of proper forms and not reading and following directions. The letter of correction being sent to Darrell are repetitious as the same mistakes are being repeated. He has had to write to Darrell every time mail is received from Billings.

Joe read a 3 page letter to the Board that he had received from Darrell with reference to the letter of April 5, 1982 Darrell had received from Dave Armstrong concerning his possible termination on May 3, 1982 if his job performance didn't improve. The summation of Darrell's letter is he felt it was inexcusable on the part of the Veterans Affairs Division not to notify him at the end of the 30 days as to whether satisfactory improvement had been met and included a rebuttal on the areas of poor performance. It also pointed out that he has been in touch with the Human Rights Division and the last paragraph reads as follows: "I have been employed almost two years now and this is the second unprovoked attack on my integrity, capabilities and professionalism. Please insure that before a third one is instigated all avenues have been explored, all issues have been discussed and no alternatives remain".

Also attached to the letter was a four page outline by Darrell on the mistakes he had made and his comments as to whether they were actual mistakes, questionable, clear or vague, with merit or without merit. Dave compared some of the corrective letters with this outline and a very controversial discussion followed. Darrell stated that the allegations made against him were just allegations. He had not been privileged to corrective interviews. Dave Armstrong pointed out that in all the correspondence he had written to Darrell pointing out the areas of error, not once did he respond by letter or telephone asking for more detail or offering an explanation as to why he had done things the way he did.

At this point Pat Estensen, Superintendent of the Montana Veterans Home, joined the meeting. As his time was limited, the discussion with Mr. Murray was recessed and Pat was given the floor. He informed the Board that the 50 bed addition to the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls had been approved and is to be completed in October of 1983. The Home will then have 85 domiciliary beds and 66 nursing care beds and these can be adjusted according to need. The Department of Institutions is trying to define the individuals personal need money. This would include all residents in any State Institution which includes the Montana Veterans Home at Columbia Falls. His suggestion was, if this is going to have an adverse effect on the veterans at Columbia Falls,

then introduce legislation on specific statutes relating directly to members of the Montana Veterans Home. Being an employee of the Department of Institutions he has an obligation to the Department but also has compassion for the veterans in the home and wants the Board aware of what may happen. He stated that the average age of the residents at Columbia Falls is 81 in the domiciliary and 76 in the nursing care unit. The patients get very upset with any change involving financial matters and is hopeful it won't have an adverse effect on the veterans. At the present time the VA is paying \$10.35 a day toward the cost of patient care and the remainder of the charge which is \$640.00 a month for the domiciliary and \$1200.00 a month for the nursing care unit is charged to the patient with the State paying the balance according to the need of the veteran. In defining personal need money the veteran may be obligated to pay more than is required of him at the present time. Other issues involved would be asking the Veterans Administration to contribute more toward the patient care and whether or not to close the men's dormitory. The dormitory was built in 1910 and needs restoration, however, it is the feeling that it would be too costly. There are objections to closing the dormitory as the residents that live there are happy. Jack McGlynn asked if the Veterans Home could be put under the Department of Military Affairs and Pat's reply was he had heard nothing to this effect. Vince Caciari told the Board that he visits the Home quite often and is very impressed with the staff and how the Home is run. He felt the patients were very content there. John Grauman, speaking for the Board, offered any assistance they could give to help with the matter. Pat thanked everyone for listening and excused himself from the meeting.

The discussion with Mr. Murray resumed. Dave pointed out that he had mailed copies of all the letters he had written to Darrell during the 30 day period given him for improvement to the Board for viewing. John Grauman reported that in doing his audit performance he felt Darrell's contact with veterans was satisfactory. Vince Caciari asked if Darrell had been given the proper training. Dave pointed out to the Board that in October he felt that Darrell could be trained to do a good job but after this length of time and he is still making the same mistakes, doesn't feel he is right for the job. He said he had nothing personal against Darrell, he just wants the office run as it should be and it is not being done. Vince asked if there had been any formal complaints against Darrell and the answer was no. Joe stated that the only way the Board has of knowing if the Service Officers are doing a good job is through the Administrator as the Board can't go to each office and really shouldn't have to. Vince said he felt the performance from the Billings office has been poor since 1975.

The subject of the files in the Billings office came up and Darrell informed the Board that if anyone wanted to look in his files, they could with the veterans permission. Dave reminded Darrell that no one was allowed to view a veterans file, not even the veteran himself, without the permission of the Veterans Administration and if he allowed this to happen he would be in violation of the law.

Darrell again brought up the fact that he felt the corrective action against him was unfair and he was never notified of his job performance. Joe informed him that every time he received a corrective letter that should have told him that he still wasn't doing a good job.


Darrell and his wife were then asked to leave the meeting and the Board went into an Executive Session. Darrell was then recalled and told to go back to the Billings

office and run it in a satisfactory manner. John Grauman will work with him and if there are any questions at all, call the Helena office.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 P.M. The next meeting will be called when the need arises.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joe Eskildsen", written over a horizontal line.

Joe Eskildsen, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Neil Shepherd", written over a horizontal line.

Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Joe Eskildsen, on July 7, 1982 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 107 of the Social and Rehabilitation Services Building. The following members and guests were present.

John Grauman, Vice Chairman	David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Neil Shepherd, Secretary	Marie S. Hinman, Admin. Secretary
Jack McGlynn, Member	Frank Kandelborg, Guest
Vince Caciari, Member	Tony Cumming, Guest
	Bob Durkee, Guest
	John Mahan, Guest

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Amendments were made to show John Grauman as the incoming Vice Chairman rather than Jack McGlynn and the Ford Building in Kalispell does have an elevator. The minutes were approved as amended.

Under old business, the Billings office situation was first on the agenda. Joe Eskildsen explained to the Board that he, acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Board, had notified Mr. Murray by letter that his services were terminated. A copy of this letter was then mailed to all Board members. Mike Wolf, Service Officer in Wolf Point, indicated that he would like to transfer to Billings and this has been done. The quality and quantity of work from the Billings office has already shown an improvement. John Grauman, Board Member from Billings, reported he feels the Billings office will finally be run as it should.

Concerning the relocation of the office in Kalispell, Vince Caciari reported that after talking with Al Miron, Service Officer from Kalispell, that Al's feelings are that at the present time he really doesn't want to move as his clients all know where he is located and moving the office at this time may be a disservice to all concerned. When the time is right, perhaps at the Fall District Meeting, advise the veterans of the office move and then they could move if the space were available. The subject was tabled until a later date.

Jack McGlynn reported to the Board concerning the transferring of the Division to the Department of Military Affairs. He has talked with General Duffey and there is some question as to the Governor having the executive power to approve this move without the approval of the Legislature. General Duffey is to let Jack know soon. This will be reported on at the next meeting. Dave Armstrong pointed out that if we need a Bill through the Legislature to accomplish this, funds should be included to move the offices.

Jack McGlynn also reported on his investigation of setting up an organization to hire lobbyists at the Legislature. Besides studying the literature from Colorado he also stopped in the State of Nevada and got some information from them. He feels that there would be no problem in setting this up in Montana. Tony Cumming stated that Montana had an organization such as this at one time, however, friction between the organizations caused it to fall apart. Bob Durkee informed the Board that he has the old bylaws of this organization if we would like to have them. Joe Eskildsen instructed Jack McGlynn to do whatever is necessary to start this organization.

John Mahan then joined the meeting to discuss the Veterans Preference Law changes. The Department of Administration has asked that a new law be drafted to clarify the nature of the preference and procedure for applying the preference to the Veterans and Handicapped. A new draft was prepared and sent to the Division for comments. John Mahan, Attorney at Law, was consulted for an opinion and his advice was to leave the Law as is. To make any changes would only weaken the present Law. He also went on to say that if we feel the need to change the Bill it would be to our benefit to write our own Bill. A motion was made by John Grauman to this effect, seconded by Neil Shepherd and passed.

John Mahan also brought to the attention of the Board that a Bill should be introduced to the Legislature to establish a \$200,000.00 fund for veterans home loans with no restrictions or limits on income and to also include the National Guard as eligible. More will be presented on this at the next meeting.

Going back to old business, Dave Armstrong reported that the Human Rights Case brought by Donna Benton against the Division has not yet been resolved. He will have more information and will report at the next meeting.

On the Cemetery Project, Dave Armstrong reported he had been in contact with Jim Court and the proposal the Indians have made is that they retain title to the land and set up a lease agreement with the State. Dave went on to say he feels this won't work unless they provide us with an easement that would remain in effect as long as the land is being used for a cemetery. When the tribe meets this will be a topic of discussion.

Dave Armstrong asked the Board for clarification of the itinerant travel policy. The present policy of record states "to provide service to all Counties". With the changes in the travel schedules of the Service Officers this policy will have to be amended. John Grauman made a motion to administratively change the travel routes to fill the needs of veterans. This was seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

Concerning the retirement of Bob Ruhl, Dave Armstrong asked Dave Lewis, the Budget Director, if funds could be provided for terminal leave and his answer was no. This will mean the Bozeman office will be closed from March 1st until July. Dave Armstrong's position will also have to remain vacant until his terminal leave runs out which would be from January to May. There is a possibility we can use any funds left over from last year which would amount to about \$5,000.00. We are waiting for a decision on this. Vince Caciari raised the question as to why so much leave be allowed to accumulate. Dave explained that an individual is allowed to accumulate two times the amount of annual leave earned with a given year. There is no limit on the amount of sick leave accumulation and an employee is paid for $\frac{1}{2}$ of their unused sick leave upon termination. With the up-coming retirement of Al Miron next year, Dave suggested we ask the Legislature for money to cover his terminal leave to avoid this same problem in the next biennium.

Dave Armstrong reported he had looked into the changes in the itinerant travel schedules and found there would be no savings to the Division financially. A comparative analysis however, proved that the following changes would be beneficial. Therefore, effective September 1, 1982, Billings will no longer travel to Lavina, Ryegate and Roundup; Bozeman will travel to West Yellowstone quarterly and will not travel to Ennis and Virginia City; and Butte will travel to Dillon, Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Alder, Virginia City, Ennis and Whitehall. There is still a question as to whether it would be better to have Butte or Bozeman take the West Yellowstone trip. This will be investigated and a decision made at the next meeting.

Concerning the certificates for years of service, Dave reported he had checked with the Department of S.R.S. and they have none and to have them printed would be costly. A suggestion was made to use bond form and print our own information on them. Options will be explored and discussed at the next meeting.

Under new business, the claims were viewed and approved.

With reference to the budget for the 1984-85 biennium, the modifications would be to ask for additional money to microfilm all the case files in the Helena office, additional money to move offices in the event we transfer to the Department of Military Affairs and additional money for terminal leaves.

Dave Armstrong asked the Board to set a policy on the distribution of the minutes of the Board meetings. Joe Eskildsen stated that the minutes are not official until they are approved. Vince Caciari commented that when a member is not there it is beneficial to have a copy as to be informed on what transpired at the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes would only be mailed to members that were not in attendance at the meeting.

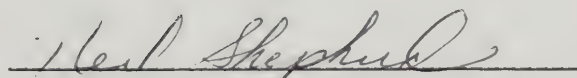
On establishing a policy to call in individual Service Officers to attend Board meetings it was agreed that this will be done if the Service Officer has a problem that should come before the Board. Otherwise it will remain the same which is just once a year at the annual training session.

The last order of business was the replacement of the Service Officer in Wolf Point. The Board viewed the applications and held interviews. Their selection was Frank Kandelborg of Butte. He is to report for work as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M. The next meeting will be held during the joint training session on the 15th of October, 1982.



Leslie J. Eskildsen, Chairman



Neil Shepherd, Secretary

The Board of Veterans Affairs held their regular scheduled meeting on the 15th day of October, 1982, which coincided with the annual training session of the Veterans Affairs Division personnel. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Eskildsen, in the office of Dave Armstrong, Jr. Administrator, at 111 Sanders Street. The following member and guests were present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman	David W. Armstrong, Jr. Administrator
Neil Shepherd, Secretary	Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Jack McGlynn, Member	Tony Cumming, Guest
Vince Caciari, Member	Bill Wilson, Guest
	William Heikkinen, Guest

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. John Grauman made the motion they be approved, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

The claims were approved.

Dave Armstrong reported to the Board that the Cemetery Project is at a standstill. The Indians have not had a meeting and there is no indications when they will. He has however, talked with Jerry Collins from Fort Peck who has proposed, that if Dave would send him all the information concerning the Cemetery, that he would see that it gets to the Inter-Tribal Council. Dave has drafted a letter to be sent to Jerry. Joe Eskildsen suggested that we give Jerry a chance to see what he can do and if that doesn't work then perhaps go back to the Legislature and ask for the additional funds to buy the land somewhere else.

Jack McGlynn reported he hasn't heard anymore concerning the State Veterans Loans. John Mahan is working on this and will be in touch with Jack.

Concerning the transfer of the Division to the Department of Military Affairs, Dave Armstrong advised the Board that Ron Weiss, a budget analyst from the Governor's office was investigating the cost or cost saving that would be involved. At this point it look like it would be advantageous to transfer. Jack McGlynn stated he had talked with the Governor and also with General Duffey and it was his understanding that this could be done by executive order. It is hoped that this can be accomplished by July 1, 1983. It was also understood that we would be attached only and not merged with the Department of Military Affairs. Joe Eskildsen said he had talked to John LaFaver, Director of the Social and Rehabilitation Services and he had no objections to our moving.

Dave reported on the Governor's Committee on Management, which has made a recommendation that the Veterans Affairs Division and its eight field offices be eliminated. He has met with John LaFaver and written a rebuttal to their reasons as to why we are not necessary. He also feels that transferring to the Department of Military Affairs might take care of the concerns of the Committee. Jack McGlynn and Vince Caciari, both had occasion to see the Governor and discuss this situation. The Governor assured them that there is nothing to worry about, that the Division won't be abolished.

Dave Armstrong advised the Board that Joan Uda, Attorney for the Division had contacted him on September 22, 1982, to inform him that the Human Rights Case against the Division brought by Donna Benton has been closed by reason of no cause.

Concerning the Veterans Preference Law, Dave stated that another draft has been proposed however it basically is the same as the old one. The meeting involving the Preference Law has been postponed until the 26th of October. Bill Wilson advised the Board that Jack Mahan is drafting a new law but will hold off turning it in until just before the meeting. Joe suggested that we let the DAV and the VFW take care of this and we will support them.

Under new business, the advertizement of the Administrator position was first on the agenda. Dave reported he has been working with Jean Bond of the Personnel Division of SRS to establish the qualifications necessary as guidelines for applicants of the job. The general qualifications for a Human Services Manager II (Administrator) as set by the State Classification Bureau were read. These, however, do not relate specifically to the Administrator of the Veterans Affairs Division. After some discussion it was decided that in addition to the qualifications set by the Classification Bureau we should add: General understanding of the VA and the internal workings, be a wartime veteran, effectively able to communicate to the public and the Legislature, have budget experience, have management and supervisory experience and a college degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience. It was further decided that the closing date for all applications would be Friday, November 26, 1982 and interviews would be held on the 10th day of December commencing at 9:00 A.M. Dave also distributed to the Board a list of interview questions he had drafted and asked for comments or additions. It was agreed these questions would be satisfactory.

At this time the Board recessed for the purpose of meeting with the staff. The Chairman reconvened the Board meeting at 11:30 A.M.

Jim Peterson, Service Officer from Miles City and also Past Department Commander of the VFW will be attending the VFW med-winter conference in Washington D.C. A motion was made to pay Jim per-diem for two days as he will be attending the Service Officer portion of the conference and acting as a representative from the Veterans Affairs Division. The motion was seconded and passed.

Because of the new VA regulation that specified that marriage, birth, divorce or death certificates have to be originals or certified copies, it was called to the attention of the Board that our field offices should be furnished with a notary public seal. It was agreed that the Division would provide for a notary seal for each office and it would be up to the individual offices as to whether the Service Officer or the secretary would be the notary. Jack McGlynn made a motion to this effect, John Grauman seconded it and the motion carried.

At the joint meeting of the Board and the field staff, Bob Ruhl asked the question as to whether his office would be closed for a period of time after he retires. Dave Armstrongs' suggestion to the Board was it would be more effective dollar wise to close the Wolf Point office and that territory be picked up by Miles City and Great Falls. The Service Officer from Wolf Point could be transferred to the Bozeman office. Joe Eskildsen voiced an objection to this and it was the general feeling of the Board that we not close any office if it can be avoided.

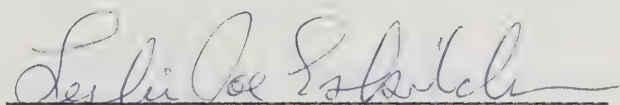
The quarterly contacts for each office were compared with those of the same

period of time last year. They really don't give a full picture because of the fact that time spent is not a consideration. Over all our contacts from one year ago to date are down from 50,000 to 30,000.

A suggestion was made to have the Service officer from the Helena office go to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Harrison periodically and assist veterans which would raise our contact count. The claims officer's schedule does not always allow him the time to spend on the wards at the hospital visiting with patients.

Jack McGlynn made a motion that the Board of Veterans Affairs endorse the emblem displayed on license plates signifying a handicapped veteran. John Grauman seconded the motion as it was carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 1982 at 8:15 A.M.



Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Chairman



Neil Shepherd, Secretary

The Board of Veterans Affairs, on the 10th day of December 1982, met in Helena, Montana at the Social and Rehabilitation Services Building for the purpose of conducting interviews of applicants for the position of Administrator, Veterans Affairs Division. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Eskildsen at 8:15 A.M. with the following member and guest present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman	David W. Armstrong, Jr., Administrator
Neil Shepherd, Secretary	Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Jack McGlynn, Member	General James W. Duffy, Guest

It was noted that Vince Caciari could not be in attendance due to recent eye surgery.

Linda Watterson from the SRS Personnel Office joined the meeting briefly and explained to the Board the system she had used to screen the applications to arrive at the final applicants to be interviewed.

Each Board member and General Duffy were then given an oral interview procedure rating guide to assist them with a criteria in determining the weight to be applied for each oral interview question.

With this, the interviews began and continued throughout most of the day. At the end of the last interview the total scores were added up and the Board came to the decision that Michael Wolf was their selection for the new Administrator.

The Board then went into a short business meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting were read. Joe Eskildsen pointed out that they should be to show that the American Legion, not the DAV, is working with the VFW on the Veterans Preference Law. The minutes were approved as amended.

Jack McGlynn advised the Board, concerning the emblem displayed on licence plates signifying a handicapped veteran, that a bill was being prepared for the Legislature.

Neil Shepherd made a motion the claims be approved, Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Michael Wolf, the incoming Administrator, is at present the Veterans Affairs Division Service Officer in Billings. The Board agreed that Mike would come to Helena on the 3rd of January in the capacity of Acting Administrator and assume his official duties as Administrator on the 31st of January.

Due to Mike's leaving the Billings office this will create an opening for a Service Officer there. John Grauman made a motion that if no senior Service Officer is interested in taking over the Billings office, Cheryl Spencer, the Administrative Secretary in Billings (who is a veteran) be promoted to the Service Officer job. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion, and it was carried.

General Duffy from the Department of Military Affairs advised the Board that transferring the Veterans Affairs Division to the Department of Military Affairs can not be done by executive order and will have to go through the Legislature. Also, the earliest date probably would be July 1, 1983.

The Board also invited General Duffy to attend all future meetings of the Board of Veterans Affairs, at his convenience.

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 7, 1983 at 10 A.M.

At this time the situation on the Bozeman office will be taken care of. The agenda will also include sending letters to all offices asking if any Service Officer is interesting in transferring to Bozeman or Billings.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Neil Shepherd", is written over a horizontal line.

Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on January 7, 1983 in the first floor conference room of the SRS Building in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Secretary Neil Shepherd in the absense of Joe Eskildsen, Chairman, at 10 A.M. The following members and guests were present:

John Grauman, Vice Chairman	Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
Jack McGlynn, Member	Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Earl Vermillion, Guest	General Duffy, Guest

It was noted Vince Caciari could not be in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

General Duffy informed the Board that a Bill has been prepared to transfer the Division to the Department of Military Affairs and will be introduced to the Legislature without delay.

Concerning the opening in the Bozeman office when Bob Ruhl retires the end of February, a letter was read to the Board from Frank Kankelborg, Service Officer in Wolf Point, expressing his interest in transferring to Bozeman. A motion was made by Jack McGlynn to transfer Frank to Bozeman if no Senior Service Officer is interested in moving. John Grauman made a motion to amend the original motion to read in the event Frank is transferred to Bozeman to advertize and fill the vacant Service Officer position in Wolf Point. Jack McGlynn seconded the amendment. John Grauman seconded the original motion and it was carried.

A discussion was held with reference to which office should be vacant, Bozeman or Wolf Point. It was decided that Miles City could pick up the Wolf Point territory for the time involved and transfer Frank to Bozeman about the 15th of March.

A letter will also be written advising the Service Officers of the opening in the Billings office. If no Service Officer is interesting in transferring to Billings, then Cheryl Spencer, Secretary in the Billings office will be promoted to Service Officer. It was noted that she is a veteran. She can then take applications for a secretary in that office. She will send the applications to the Administrator in Helena, with her recommendations, and the Administrator will make the final decision. Marilyn Combs, a former employee submitted an application for this job which was presented to the Board. They referred it to the Administrator who will take it into consideration.

Mike Wolf asked General Duffy when it would be possible to move the office in Bozeman to the National Guard Armory and his response was as soon as it was convenient for us. He will contact the officer in charge in Bozeman and advise them of the move.

The question came up concerning the training of new Service Officers. Mike Wolf, Administrator, advised the Board that he would like to do the training himself in the Helena office for at least a week before sending anyone out in the field. This was agreeable to all. Earl Vermillion asked the Boards permission to allow some leeway on the date of hire of the new Service Officer until a final analysis of the budget could be made.

The Board set a date of January 20th to make the formal announcement concerning Mike Wolf's appointment as Administrator. It will be published Statewide.

Darrell Murray, former Service Officer from Billings, has made a formal complaint to the Human Rights Division against the Division regarding his dismissal. The Human Rights Division advised the Helena office by telephone and will send us a written report in the next few days. John Grauman made a motion that if necessary, Mike Wolf be given the authority to hire legal counsel in this matter, John McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Concerning the Veterans Cemetery project, Dave Armstrong, former Administrator, had not had any results in the land swap with the Indians. John Grauman made a motion that Mike Wolf reopen the case and do whatever is necessary to accomplish the original goal. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried. General Duffy also offered any help the Military Affairs could give.

Jack McGlynn reported that the United Veterans Committee was underway and going quite well. Decals were being printed and would go out to all Service Organizations shortly.

Mike Wolf, at this time, advised the Board that besides the institution of a training program for new employees, he would like to cut paper work as much as possible, have input into the Helena office from all field offices, promote and maintain a good working relationship with all Service Organizations and let people in the field know what is going on.

A letter was read from Ruddy Reilly addressed to the Administrator and the Board requesting a copy machine for the Great Falls office. Mike Wolf reported that he had checked into the matter and found that SRS had a copy machine in surplus property that we could have. John Grauman made a motion that Great Falls be given a copy machine by the least expensive way possible, Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

The claims were viewed and approved.

Each member was given a copy of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst proposed budget. The options concerning the Division were 1. Eliminate the Division 2. Retain the program 3. Consider program consolidation. They also refer to two vacant positions as Service Officer positions however they are in fact secretarial positions. General Duffy had a copy of the Governor's budget and his only recommendation was to save money through rent and this will be accomplished by moving to the Department of Military Affairs.


A discussion was held concerning the Division's hearing before the Appropriations subcommittee and was decided that Mike Wolf, Earl Vermillion and Jack McGlynn from the Veterans Affairs and General Duffy, Ken Cottrill and Jack Walsh from the Military Affairs would appear on behalf of the Division. John Grauman made a motion to this effect, Jack McGlynn seconded it and it was carried.

Mike Wolf asked for clarification on the policy of hiring, firing and disciplinary action. It was resolved that the Board would make the final decision on hiring and firing of Service Officer and above. Below Service Officers would be left to the discretion of the Administrator. Any disciplinary action would be in the form of a letter with a copy going to the Board for their information. The Board also stated that they would stand behind the Administrator and not get personally involved. This was put in the form of a motion by John Grauman, seconded by Jack McGlynn and carried.

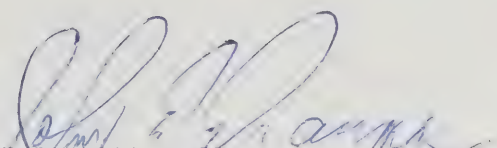
John Grauman also made a motion to maintain our current level of FTE's and fill the vacant secretarial positions if possible. Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

The next meeting has been scheduled for the 23rd day of March at 10 A.M. At this time interviews will be held for the vacant Service Officer position.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.



Neil Shepherd, Secretary



Leslie "Joe" Eskildsen, Chairman

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on March 23, 1983 in the first floor conference room of the SRS Building in Helena, Montana. The following members and guests were present:

Joe Eskildsen, Chairman	Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
John Grauman, Vice Chairman	Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Neil Shepherd, Secretary	General Duffy, Guest
Jack McGlynn, Member	Tony Cumming, Guest
Vince Caciari, Member	Earl Vermillion, Guest

Before the regular order of business, Jeff Cochran from the Governor's office and Arnold Goray were introduced to the Board. Their appearance at the meeting was due to interest in the Veterans Cemetery and where it stands. Jeff has done some investigating as to where the \$50,000.00 appropriation is, and found the money to be in an escro account. He is also aware of the problems with the land exchange. Joe Eskildsen, Chairman, advised Jeff that he and David Armstrong, former Administrator, had made several attempt but never been able to pin anyone down. Somediscussion was held concerning the problems we were having. At this point, Arnold Goray offered to talk to the tribe on our behalf, and see what he could do. He felt that if he could meet with Frank Realbird or Danetta Falls Down, that that would be the best place to start. Joe asked Arnold if he would work with Mike Wolf, Administrator, and, after its established what the tribe wants, then go to the Land Board to see what can be done to make the land available. General Duffy suggested that a meeting be set up with the State Land Board, Mike Wolf and the Indians. Jack McGlynn felt that we get this done as soon as possible or we may lose the money.

The applicants for the Wolf Point Service Officer position were then viewed. Because of the distance involved in travel, the Board felt that personal interviews would not be necessary unless the individual requested one. The gentlemen that did appear were interviewed and after some deliberation, Jack McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Neil Shepherd to hire Jerry Collins. The motion carried.

The meeting was then called to order for the regular order of business.

Val Thompson, a Viet Nam veteran from Missoula, requested time at the meeting so the Board could be made aware of his feelings on the psychiatric ward at Fort Harrison. He feels that Viet Nam veterans with delayed stress should be treated for psychiatric problems rather than medical. His observation of the psychiatric ward at Fort Harrison is that it is too small and understaffed. Dr. Ramsmeier is the only qualified psychiatrist on staff and thinks the program should be expanded. He also feels that the VA is discriminating against Viet Nam veterans. John Grauman suggested that Val appeal to veterans groups with his cause and Jack McGlynn also suggested that he make the Congressional members aware of his feelings. Val also questioned as to why there was no Veterans Service Officer at Fort Sheridan, Wyoming. It was explained that Wyoming has no Veterans Affairs Division. A discussion was held concerning having one of our service officers go to Sheridan on a itinerant basis, however the distance involved would probably make it impractical. It was suggested that Mike Wolf, Administrator, check on the situation at Fort Harrison, in the psychiatric ward, and if warrented, follow through with requests and recommendations.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mike Wolf, Administrator, gave the Board an update on our operational plan, which included, HB 296 (Transfer to Military Affairs) has gone to the Governor for signature, our budget is uncertain at this point but the overall projection does not include closing any offices or laying people off, a replacement Service Officer for Wolf Point can be hired as early as March 28, 1983 and Al Miron, Service Officer in Kalispell, has informed us his retirement date will probably be in late July, however, when a replacement can be hired is questionable at this time because of the uncertainty of the budget.

Mike also went on to say he wanted to thank those people who were so helpful to him during the Legislature, especially, Earl Vermillion, Jack McGlynn, Tony Cumming, Bob Durkee, Bill Wilson and General Duffy.

Earl Vermillion gave an account of our current budget which includes a surplus of approximately \$11,600.00. This is due to vacancy savings because of retirements. In addition there is \$2,055.00 reverted back which is pay plan money left over. Jack McGlynn stated we should not have any money left over to turn back.

Vince Caciari asked the question that since our budget is prepared according to need, can the surplus be used for what we want? Earl's answer was yes.

Vince went on to explain that the need for a Service Officer replacement in Kalispell is vital because of the work load and asked if we could promote Arlene Soderstrom, the present Secretary, to Service Officer, temporarily, and hire a typist? Earl said this could be done. It was also suggested that perhaps we could get a typist through a work experience program. It was noted that veteran status is not a requirement for a temporary appointment of a Service Officer.

Al's Miron's retirement will be discussed more thoroughly at the next meeting.

On the proposed budget, Earl pointed out that the cost to have our statistics run on a computer could be a major problem. At the present time, we are paying \$12.00 a month to have SRS run our statistics. When we transfer to Military Affairs, this will have to be contracted out, at a cost of about \$4,300.00 a year. The suggestion was made that with the surplus money, Veterans Affairs buy a computer and do our own operation. Ron Brown, Chief of Centralized Services, SRS, joined the meeting and was introduced. Ron gave the Board a brief run down on how our statistics are handled at SRS and made recommendations on what type of a computer he felt we should have. He also suggested that if we do buy one, we should purchase it locally so there would be no problems having it serviced.

Earl also brought up the fact that Great Falls is in real need for office furniture, Marie needs a new chair and some of our field offices have requested copy machines. Jack McGlynn made a motion that we do what we can on buying a computer and with any money left over, take care of these other things. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

It was noted that SB 312 has increased the fee to Board Members from \$25.00 per day to \$50.00 per day.

John Grauman made a motion we hire the replacement for Wolf Point, as soon as possible. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Human Rights case brought against the Division by Darrell Murray, former Service Officer in Billings, was next on the Agenda. Mike reported that the fact finding hearing will be held the last of April. This will be reported on at the next Board meeting.

The claims were viewed and approved.

The summary of the contacts and the statistical reports were handed out to each Board member and a discussion was held concerning same.

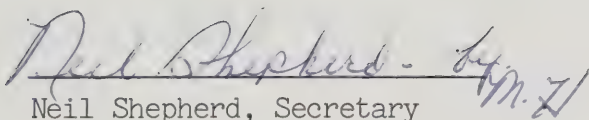
The Board asked Mike Wolf to let Val Thompson know of his findings at Fort Harrison on the psychiatric ward.

John Grauman made a motion to change Earl Vermillion's title to that of Assistant Administrator from Administrative Assistant. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 24, 1983 at 10:00 A.M.



Leslie 'Joe' Eskildsen, Chairman


Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on June 24, 1983 at 10:00 A.M. in the conference room of the National Guard Armory in Helena, Montana with the following members and guests present:

Joe Eskildsen, Chairman	Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
John Grauman, Vice Chairman	Marie Hinman, Admin. Secretary
Jack McGlynn, Member	General Duffy, Guest
Vince Caciari, Member	Earl Vermillion, Guest
Barbara Liscomb, Newly appointed Member	

Before the regular order of business began, Barbara Liscomb was introduced to the Board. Barbara gave a brief background on herself which included being born and raised in Massachusetts, graduating from nursing school, joining the Air Force in 1964 and spending 10½ years as a flight nurse. Barbara ran an outreach clinic for the Indians in Arizona, worked in Warm Springs Mental Hospital for two years and is presently employed at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Harrison. She is a member of the Disabled American Veterans and also the Viet Nam veterans of America.

The regular order of business then began with the minutes of the previous meeting being read and approved.

Michael Wolf, Administrator, reported to the Board on the following:

All offices that were scheduled to move have now completed their moves.

Darrell Murray, (former Service Officer from Billings, who has a Human Rights Case against the Board) asked for a postponement of the hearing that was scheduled for June 15, 1983, in Billings, due to illness. Jerry Keck of the Human Rights Division, stated that he would not reschedule the hearing but instead hand down a decision on the evidence he already has.

The protest made by Val Thompson, a veteran from Missoula, at the last Board meeting, concerning the placing of stress patients with the drug and alcohol patients at Fort Harrison was investigated. Frank Caldwell, Director and the Chief of Staff have explained that this is done because these patients are all ambulatory and require similar treatment. They are aware that this is not an ideal situation, but because of facility and staff problems this is the most logical arrangement to be made.

Al Miron as set his retirement date for August 19, 1983.

Jerry Collins, the new Service Officer in Wolf Point, is progressing satisfactorily.

Jimmy Peterson orally expressed his desire to transfer to the Kalispell office.

Diana Nisbet, Secretary in Great Falls, who was suspended temporarily from her duties for misuse of sick leave, has returned to work.

A plan has been instituted concerning the Cemetery Project, which may expedite matters. Governor Schwinden and his staff are opposed to a land swap, but feel the land can be acquired by granting certain concessions to the Crow Tribe, such as designating a portion of the land exclusively for burial plots for Tribal members. The parcel of land being sought is Tribal allotment #3278 which is 121 acres in size and belongs to Margaret Hoop on Fore Head, a Crow Tribal member.

We will contact the following persons, who have a good rapport with the Tribal members, to see if it can be determined exactly what conditions the Crows will accept, prior to a formal meeting:

Ramone Howe, Representative of District #58, Box 352, Lodge Grass, Mont.
Harold Stanton, Officer and Member of the Custer Battlefield, Hardin, Mont.
James V. Court, Superintendent of Custer Battlefield, Box 7, Hardin, Mont.

The floor was then opened for discussion on Mike's report.

John Grauman said he felt that Darrell Murray's claim was weak and that he had concealed facts about his disabilities from us. He also noted that his reason for fire was strictly lack of work.

John also asked if seniority was involved in Jim Peterson's transfer to Kalispell? On the same subject, Vince Caciari said he has talked to Jim and also to people that know him, and he feels that Jim is a good service officer and would be in favor of moving him to Kalispell if no one with more seniority applies. He also went on to say that Arlene Soderstrom is a top notch secretary and would be able to help Jim with any problems. Joe Eskildsen, Chairman, instructed Mike Wolf to notify all Service Officers of the opening and if no one is interested, then the Board gives their approval to Jim's request to transfer. It was noted that in the event Jim does transfer that he will be under the guideline and direction of Arlene for a period of one year.

Vince also reported that he has been in the Kalispell office which is now located at the Armory and feels the quarters are satisfactory and everything is working nicely. He also said that he had discussed with Arlene the probability of her handling the office alone for a couple of months until the transfer of a Service Officer could be made and she was agreeable.

Concerning the cemetery, Jack McGlynn brought up Harold Lynn's name from Libby as a possibility of helping. It was agreed that if the Board felt he could help, they should ask him. Vince Caciari brought up the fact that the VFW is starting a movement to establish an Arlington West in Montana and wondered if this would hinder our cemetery project? The Board felt not.

With reference to Val Thompson, Barbara Liscomb informed the Board that Val is not a Viet Nam veteran and her knowledge of the stress patients at Fort Harrison is that most of them usually have drug and alcohol problems.

Earl Vermillion then gave a report on his findings on purchasing a computer. It was his opinion that there was not ample time to complete a full study on what to buy and funds were also a problem. The compromise was to accept a key punch machine, at no charge, to do our statistics. This could be manned by the present staff. He did say however, that he felt there could be some objection by the staff to do the work.

Earl advised the Board that he has order 5 copy machine for our offices. He estimates that it will cost about 4¢ a copy to operate them.

Concerning the present budget, Earl reported that there was approximately \$2,400.00 left in the current budget and that \$1,600.00 of that money has been obligated for postage stamps. Also the cost of moving the telephones for the offices that moved into Armories is unsettled. Joe Eskildsen raised the question if we owned our own phones. The answer was no. He suggested that we should buy our phones. General Duffy advised that the phone systems were going to change and that Earl should meet with Major Cottrell to get the full details.

Jack McGlynn made a motion that travel claims for Board members to attend Veterans Organizations conventions are justified and should be approved. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mike Wolf asked that they understand that they are representing the Veterans Affairs Division and not any other organization at these functions.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 1984-85 was then discussed. (copy attached) Because there will be a shortfall, Mike suggested that the Service Officer position in Miles City be left vacant for a period of time to help make up some of the money. It was agreeable, however, Jack McGlynn doesn't feel it should be left open for too long. The budget was approved.

John Grauman pointed out that Miles City is in need of office furniture. Earl Vermillion will check into the matter.

Under new business the claims were viewed and approved.

John Grauman reported that there was some water damage to the office in Billings because of some broken pipes. He raised the question as to whether this was covered by insurance. Earl reported that it was covered by the building insurance.

A discussion was held on whether the contracted services for the secretaries for the VFW and DAV was legal or are we in violation of the law. Joe Eskildsen advised that this has been through the courts and it is legal. General Duffy suggested that the salaries should be increased.

The floor was then opened for nomination for election of new officers for the coming year. Those elected were John Grauman, Chairman, and Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman.

Mike Wolf brought up the fact that Red Menehan from Butte did a lot of work for us at the last Legislature. Gavel's were presented to all Chairman but Red turned it down because it was purchased with State funds. Mike has asked Bob Ruhl to make a gavel to be presented to Red from a group of friends. Mike asked the Board if there was anyone else that they wanted to have one. J.D. Lynch's name was proposed. It was agreed by all that both men would receive gavels.

It was noted that the 163rd Association had met with the United Veterans Committee concerning the 163rd having further recognition at the Pioneers and Memorial Building.

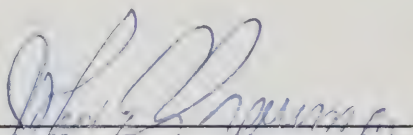
With regards to the United Veterans Committee, Jack McGlynn said he was happy to report that the Committee would have \$12,700.00 clear after all bills were paid. Their goal was \$10,000.00.


A letter received in the Helena office commending Frank Kankelborg, Service Officer in Bozeman, was read to the Board.

Joe Eskildsen, who has served on the Board of Veterans Affairs for the past 14 years, then read a letter, dated June 24, 1983, addressed to the Governor,

resigning his position as a Board member. The resignation is effective June 30, 1983. Joe had one year left to serve in his current appointment as a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



John E. Grauman, Chairman

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

5

VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. Box 5715
Helena, Montana 59604

June 24, 1983

Governor Ted Schwinden
Executive Office
Room 204
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59624

Dear Governor Schwinden,

As per our conversation in your office yesterday, June 23, 1983, I wish to submit my resignation, effective June 30, 1983.

It has been a pleasure to have served on the Board of Veterans Affairs for the past fourteen years, but I feel the time has come to give up my appointment.

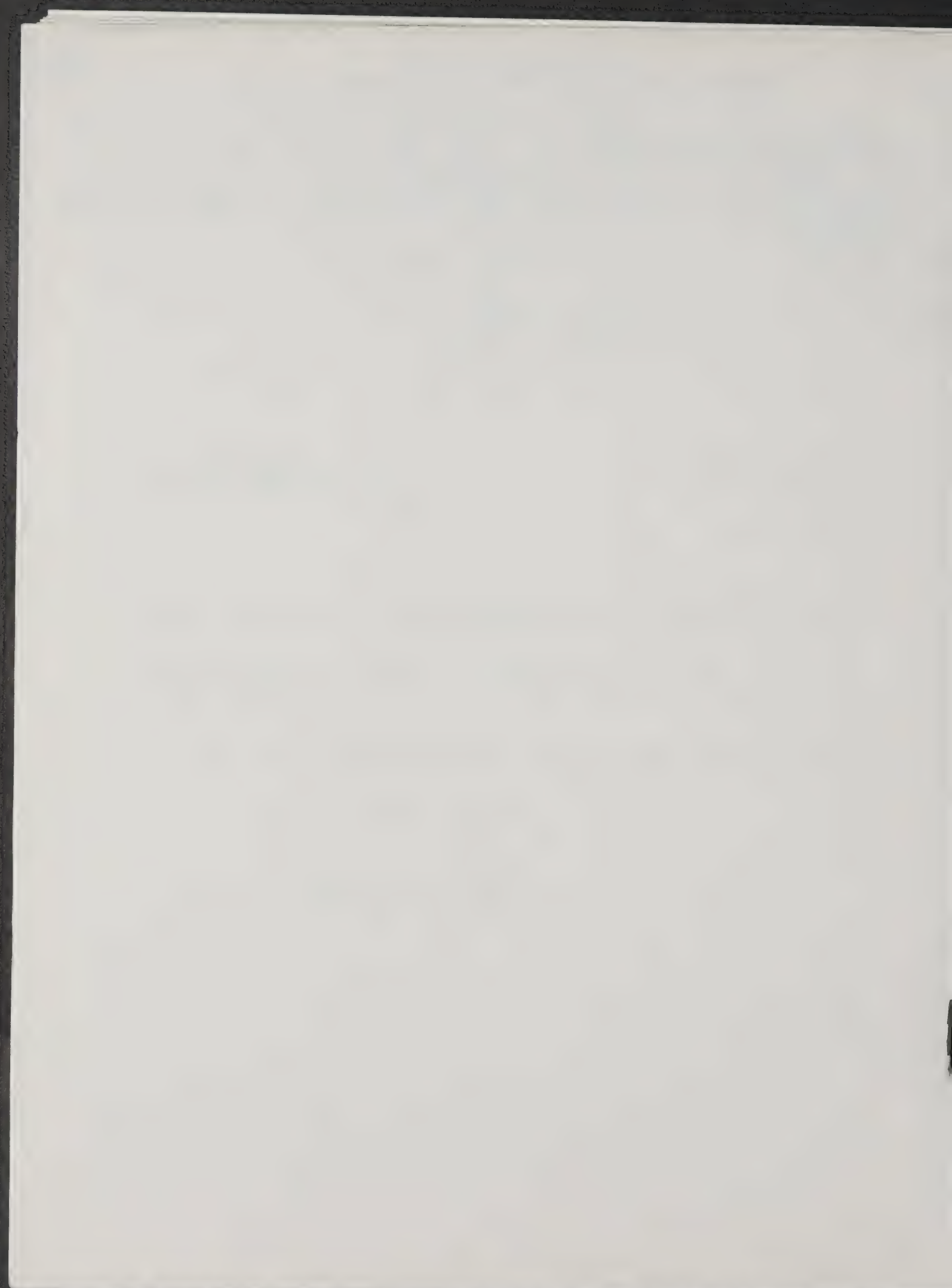
I have enjoyed my association with you over the years and also feel honored to have served the veterans of Montana.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Eskildsen", is written above the typed name.

LESLIE 'JOE' ESKILDSEN
Chairman, Board of Veterans Affairs

LJE/mh



BUDGET BASED ON 18½ FTE

	1984		1985	
Total	467,097			468,663
PERSONNEL SERVICES				
	Budget	planned	Budget	Planned
Salaries	330,831		329,580	
Emp. benefits	47,853		48,620	
Hlth. Ins.	<u>17,760</u>		<u>17,760</u>	
Tot. Pers. Ser.	396,444	396,776	395,960	412,352
Shortfall by year		-332		-16,392
Total shortfall for biennium		16,724		

OPERATING EXPENSES				
Contracted Ser.	13,467	13,467	14,263	14,263
Sys. & Material	4,224	3,600	4,478	3,900
Communication	10,391	10,100	11,121	10,200
Travel	31,340	22,730	32,664	23,340
Rent	8,137	7,190	7,495	7,490
Rep. & Mat.	353	129	374	230
Other Exp.	<u>2,741</u>	<u>1,600</u>	<u>2,308</u>	<u>1,600</u>
Total level	70,653	58,816	72,703	11,680

Hidden expenses not reflected above, deduct from contr. Ser.

Contracted Ser.	13,467	14,263
Pmt. to DAV	4,512.96	4,512.96
Pmt. to VFW	<u>4,512.96</u>	<u>4,512.96</u>
Total level	9,025.92	9,025.92
MVAD Balance	4,441.08	4,441.08

Hopefully we can operate within the planned expenditures, if this goes as planned we will have a balance of 6,793, which will be used as an contingency for any items that are over spent. If we cannot operate within the limits as planned we will have no alternative but to restrict travel further or to save the money through vacancy savings.

A special meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman John E. Grauman on September 6, 1983, at 9:00 A.M. at the National Guard Armory in Helena, Montana, to discuss a law suit which has been filed by the Board of Regents against the Board of Veterans Affairs.

The following members and guests were present:

Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman	Robert Durkee
Neil Shepherd, Member	Bill Wilson
Michael V. Wolf Administrator	John Mahan
Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Secretary	Earl Vermillion
General Duffy	Tony Cumming
	Members of the DAV Post

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Any discussion of the budget was postponed until the November meeting.

Because of the fact that Joe Eskildsen resigned his position on the Board and he was in line for appointment as Secretary, Neil Shepherd, who was appointed to fill the remainder of Joe's term, was elected.

Vince Caciari was unable to attend due to prior commitments. Barbara Liscomb has resigned her job at Fort Harrison and apparently left Helena permanently. A discussion followed and in the event the Governor appoints someone to take Barbara's place, it was decided that a member of the DAV would be in line for the appointment.

On the Cemetery project, General Duffy reported that a meeting has been set up with the Crow Tribe. Jeff Cochran, from the Governor's office, had assured him that the money was there for the project. After meeting with the Crow Tribe and discussing different options that would be agreeable to both parties, a second meeting was scheduled for August 31, 1983. Before that date arrived, it was discovered that the appropriation for the Cemetery had been taken away by the Legislature and the money reallocated to another agency for different purposes.

The question now is - do we go back to the Legislature and ask for refunding of this project and how to handle it. General Duffy noted that the State Lands Board is not in favor of trading land. Mike Wolf stated that the greatest veteran population is in Western Montana. One of the members from the DAV post suggested it could be constructed at Fort Harrison. After some discussion, John Grauman appointed Jack McGlynn, with the help of General Duffy, to pursue the issue for the best possible solution.

John Grauman brought up the point about small loans for veterans. He felt something should be done to help Viet Nam veterans with housing. John Mahan and Bob Durkee will check into the matter and report back to the Board.

John Grauman asked if there was any reason that the field Service Officers couldn't come to Helena to assist Tom Hamilton with hearing on appeals. It was pointed out that in order to do this, the individual service officers have to be certified with the VA. Neil Shepherd made a motion to have the Service Officers certified and bring them in to assist. Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Grauman inquired about getting a CETA person to work in the Helena office for a period of time to help with extra projects. It was reported that the CETA program is no longer in existence. There are however, other programs available. This will be looked into to see what can be done.

Under new business, the Board of Regents has filed suit against the Board of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of exempting themselves from following the State Laws concerning Veterans Preference.

The Attorney Generals office had been contacted to act as our legal council however they have refused to represent us (verbally) because they are a third party thus constuting a conflict of interest. The Board of Regents have their own attorney.

The Board felt they should have a meeting with the Attorney General. John Mahan suggested a letter be written to the Attorney General's office requesting they act as our legal council and ask for a decision in writing. (Copy of letter attached.) A meeting was set up for 2:00 P.M. this day.

John Mahan stated he felt this should be thrown out of Court as we are not the proper agency to sue. The Hunt case (which involves veterans preference for appointed officials) the the Crabtree case (which involves preference for veterans and handicapped persons being hired) were discussed.

John Grauman said he felt there was a lot of opposition to the veterans rights and the balance of the labor force is not in favor of the veteran.

It was pointed out that the cigarette tax had originally been allocated to the veterans but was eventually given to the Board of Regents. Also, that the veterans make up a great deal of the student population at the State schools throughout Montana.

The State of Montana has approximately 106,000 veterans plus their spouses and the handicapped which makes up about 210,000 of our population.

Jack McGlynn suggested a poll be run to see how many veterans are employed by the University System.

It was suggested that the Veterans Organizations be made aware of this situation and John Grauman asked for their support.

Bob Durkee advised that there would be a meeting of the Legislative Study Committee on Friday, September 9, 1983 at the Capitol, concerning the Veterans Preference Law. Bob suggested the Board have a representative there.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting has been scheduled for the 4th day of November, 1983 in conjunction with the Service Officers training session.


John E. Grauman, Chairman


Neil Shepherd, Secretary

VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. Box 5715
Helena, Montana 59604

September 6, 1983

Mike Greely
Attorney General
Room 317, Justice Center
215 N. Sanders
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Greely,

The Board of Veterans Affairs is being sued by the Board of Regents for the purpose of exempting themselves from following the State of Montana Laws concerning Veterans Preference, something which we have no control over.

We request that your office act as legal council for this Board as we have no funds available for such purposes.

We further request that you petition the Courts to have this case dismissed as we are not the proper party in this suit.

Please advise us in writing no later than Friday, September 9, 1983.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN E. GRAUMAN
Chairman

STATE
OF
MONTANA

ATTORNEY GENERAL
MIKE GREELY

215 N. SANDERS, JUSTICE BUILDING, HELENA, MONTANA 59620
TELEPHONE (406) 449-2026

14 September 1983

John E. Grauman, Chairman
Veterans' Affairs Division
Department of Military Affairs
P.O. Box 5715
Helena, Montana 59604

Re: Board of Regents v. Board of Veterans' Affairs

Dear Mr. Grauman:

As I explained to you and the members of the Board at our conference of September 6, 1983, neither the Department of Justice Legal Services Division nor the Agency Legal Services Bureau can represent the Board of Veterans' Affairs in the above-referenced lawsuit.

Based on our discussion I would urge the Board to seek independent counsel in this matter.

Should the matter reach the Supreme Court on the constitutional question I will decide at that time whether a third party or amicus appearance by this office is appropriate.

Very truly yours,


MIKE GREELY
Attorney General

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held in conjunction with the Annual Training Session at Fort Harrison for all Veterans Affairs Division staff. The meeting was called to order by John E. Grauman, Chairman, on November 4, 1983 at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory, 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch. The following were in attendance:

Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman
Neil Shepherd, Secretary
Vince Caciari, Member

Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary
All Veterans Affairs Division Staff and
several guests.

Before the regular order of business, Doug Booker, State Budget Analyst, gave a presentation on the budget process. He explained how critical it was to stay within the appropriations of the budget and if it is overspent, individuals can be held personally liable. There are exceptions, for supplementals, however he advised that they were few and far between and they should be made known well in advance. He went on to say that in January, the Executive Planning Process will begin and continue for six months. In July, it is documented and sent to each agency to add whatever is necessary and returned. Jack McGlynn posed the questions why we can't get more money to operate as we can't handle the workload with the staff we now have. Doug's suggestion was to plan ahead, be able to deal with the legislature and to contact individual legislatures well ahead of the time the legislature meets to make them aware of our needs. John Grauman brought up the fact that we return \$13.00 for every dollar spent but we need to expand to provide more service to veterans and their dependents thus increasing the amount of veterans benefits. A discussion was held on how the money goes full circle. Our monthly reports were referred to and General Duffy explained how the Military Affairs does their reporting and showed everyone a copy of a report. A copy of the monthly Veterans Affairs Division report will be sent to Doug Booker and he agreed to help us in any way he can to increase our budget.

General Duffy gave a report of the suit brought against the Veterans Affairs Division by the Board of Regents, to have themselves exempted from following the Veterans Preference Law. Mike Wolf, Administrator of the Veterans Affairs Division was called to give a deposition. Our attorneys, John Mahan and Phil Strobe were present along the Irving Dayton, Commissioner of Higher Education and LeRoy Schramm, attorney for the Board of Regents. A copy of the proceedings will be sent to everyone concerned. General Duffy felt there could be a possibility the suit will be withdrawn. A discussion was held as to whether we should ask for damages, however, Jack McGlynn intimated that we should leave this up to the Judge stressing the suit was wrongfully brought against the Division.

The regular order of business then began with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. It was noted that the minutes should be changed to read "the next Board member will be recommended by the VFW" rather than the DAV.. The minutes were approved.

Mike Wolf, Administrator, gave a report on the budget and pointed out the reason for denial of various requests was because the extra funds were not available in the budget. He discussed the budget and target savings (copy attached) and further stated that there are two ways we can get extra money. 1. Ask for additional funds from the budget office to defray the cost of the legal fees on the pending lawsuit and 2. Make a request for special funding to cover the cost of the increase in salaries.

Mr. Wolf also gave a brief summary on the suit against the Division by the Board of Regents and it is his opinion that the Judge will defer a decision until after the Legislature meets.

Jack McGlynn stated he feels our budget is not adequate and there is no where left to shave any more money. He suggested our Service Officers visit with their individual Legislatures and make it known how much money is being lost in the counties by not having sufficient fund to do our job.

John Grauman, Chairman, presented Ruddy Reilly with a 15 years of service certificate.

Earl Vermillion explained how we are now processing our own statistics and cautioned everyone to be extremely careful in filling out the contact sheets and to be sure the proper blocks are filled in.

Pat Estenson, Superintendent of the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls gave a presentation on the Home. The Home is currently full and there are about 35 on the waiting list for the nursing home and 10 for the domiciliary. The construction of the new addition to the Home is on schedule and when complete there will be an addition 36 nursing home beds and 10 domiciliary. There is an issue as to what to do with the existing building. The building does not meet life safety codes. If it could be restored to meet safety standards then perhaps it could become a military museum. His feelings are that if the money is not available to do this then it should be demolished. The dedication of the new building will be next spring, hopefully in connection with the American Legion Convention in March or April. Pat also noted that the new nursing bed unit at Fort Harrison will become a reality in 1986 or 1987.

The veterans committee has asked Congress to increase the financial participation of the Veterans Administration for the patients in the Veterans Home. At present the cost for the domiciliary is \$666.00 a month and the nursing case unit is \$1,178.00. The charge to the veteran is based on ability to pay and they are allowed to keep \$75.00 a month for personal needs.

Pat will be attending the National meeting of the State Veterans Homes in Washington D.C. They are going to seek legislation to have State facilities not be required to go through the process of need. He would appreciate support from the Division.

The veterans Home will be publishing a new brochure listing the requirements etc. for the Home, in November or December and will supply us with them when they are available.

The claims were viewed and approved.

On the cemetery, Jack McGlynn stated we should request the Legislature to refund the money to us for the project and seek alternate spots for the cemetery.

Mike Wolf reported that the JTPA program has replaced the CETA program. He also reported that Roger Novotne from Veterans Services Division at Fort Harrison will be sending packets explaining the Insurance program.

Fred Olson, spokesman for the Service Officers, reported that they had discussed income questionnaire cards, contacts, budget, supplies and travel claims at their meeting. They would like to have secretaries in the Bozeman and Wolf Point offices and a Service Officer in Miles City as soon as possible. They requested a larger supply of pamphlets to hand out and Fred made the suggestion that a weekly update on veterans regulations be published in the newspaper and monthly an article reporting the money that has been generated through veterans benefits.

They also requested that all the Service Officers be certified with the Veterans Administration. They would like to the Service Officers positions reclassified

at a higher grade and asked that preliminary work be started on this now so the money can be requested in our next budget. They also asked that a letter be written to the Veterans Service Office at Fort Harrison, in appreciation for all the help they have given us. (Earl Vermillion was appointed to take care of this.)

The Secretary meeting was chaired by Arlene Soderstrom and she reported that the secretaries has stressed at their meeting the value of reporting all contacts and making sure that all credit is taken for new money on award letters. They would like to have the system abolished of keeping track of all copies that are made on the copy machines and reporting all long distant telephone calls. Earl Vermillion explained his justification for these reports as being a projection of our needs for the future. It was decided that they would continue for three months and that should be ample for an accurate estimate.

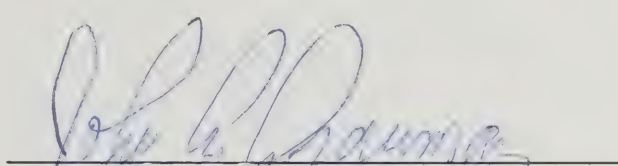
Arlene, who has been traveling in the absence of a Service Officer in the Kalispell area, feels there is not enough time to cover the scheduled travel the way it is set up now. John Grauman advised anyone that is having a problem with their travel schedules to contact Mike Wolf and revise the itiniary to a more suitable schedule.

Etta Jaeger, Miles City office, asked if it was permissible to contact the VFW people and supply them with forms to assist veterans? The answer was yes.

Jerry Collins, newly hired Service Officer in Wolf Point thanked everyone for their support. Frank Kankelborg, Service Officer from Bozeman, stressed how compatible the National Guard has been in Bozeman, and Jimmy Peterson, Service Officer in Kalispell, reported on the Service Officers training session in Washington, D.C.

Bill Heikkinen, Service Officer for the American Legion, registered a complaint concerning the Veterans Affairs Division not being able to afford to reproduce the Income Questionnaire folder for the field offices.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting has been scheduled for January 6, 1984 at 10:00 A.M.



John E. Grauman, Chairman



Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on the 6th day of January, 1984 at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory, 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch. The meeting was called to order by John E. Grauman, Chairman, with the following members and guests present:

Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman	James W. Duffy, Adjutant General
Neil Shepherd, Secretary	Jeff Cochran, Governor's office
Bernadette Opp, newly appointed Member	Tony Cummings, American Legion
Vince Caciari, Member	Bill Wilson, VFW
Michael V. Wolf, Administrator	Chuck Johnson, Reporter, G.F. Tribune
Marie S. Hinman, Admin. Sec.	John Mahan, Attorney
Earl Vermillion, Assistant Admin.	Phil Strobe, Attorney

Bernadette Opp was introduced and welcomed to the Board.

Before the regular order of business began, John Mahan and Phil Strobe, attorneys, gave a report on the pending lawsuit brought against the Board of Veterans Affairs by the Board of Regents.

In bringing the case up to date, they stated they were hired to defend the Board of Veterans Affairs in this suit because the Attorney General's Office has declined due to a conflict of interest.

They had filed a motion to have the case dismissed as the relief the Board of Regents was seeking could not be gained from the Board of Veterans Affairs. The Board of Regents asked for an extension of time and the judge granted them 20 days after the end of the special Legislative session.

LeRoy Schram, attorney for the Board of Regents, has approached Mr. Mahan and Mr. Strobe and asked if they would agree to a stipulated dismissal. After conferring on the matter they decided the answer would be no.

At the present time they have prepared a writ to consolidate our case with several others to ask the Supreme Court to intercede jurisdiction as they felt there were errors in the law. This writ would be filed today, January 6th, 1984. It will contain 'questioning the constitutionality of the act, consolidating the cases that have already been filed and setting a schedule to hear all parties'. They felt there were 15 to 20 law suits involved. They stated the constitutionality of the act involves such things as 'Can the legislature supercede the old law and take away rights already given to veterans and can the old law stand for old veterans? They felt Senate Bill 2 is discriminatory. They also went on to say that if the Supreme Court does accept jurisdiction, that cases of individuals that can't afford to hire an attorney would be heard.

Jack McGlynn asked the attorneys if we could bring suit against the Board of Regents as an injured party? Mr. Strobe's answer was that this type a suit is called malicious prosecution and the chances of winning are nil. His recommendation would be not to sue. Jack then asked if a judge could make this decision and the answer was possibly but the probability was nil.

General Duffy brought up the question as to whether the Board of Veterans Affairs could support the testing of the constitutionality of the new law, can the Board legally pay attorney fees for this? Mr. Stropes answer was yes. The Board of Regents said they were above the old law and now are exempt from the new law. He feels it would be advantageous to us to participate. General Duffy pointed out that they were hired for one thing, and if we go any further, then the Board would be sticking their neck out. Mr. Strobe's reply was we are still involved since the constitutionality of the law is involved. Jack McGlynn stated we are the only State

Agency in Montana that represents veterans. John Grauman feels this should be carried all the way. Phil Strobe stated that this is within the scope of original hire. General Duffy disagreed saying he felt it would be wrong to go ahead with the attorneys. Jack McGlynn asked the attorneys if it would cost any more to proceed? Mr. Strobe's answer was yes, however, it would cost to close the old case too. Jack McGlynn asked if it will cost more to proceed than it would to close the case and Mr. Strobe's reply was no.

At this time Jack McGlynn made a motion to continue with the attorneys, Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was passed with a vote of 4 to 0.

The attorneys excused themselves from the meeting and left.

Mike Wolf pointed out that the attorney fees were not to exceed \$12,000.00

The regular order of business began with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

Jack McGlynn reported that he has talked to legislatures and feels we can get the money reinstated for the cemetery project. It was his feeling that the legislature was led to believe we didn't want the money. We will have to start from the beginning but thinks it will succeed. John Grauman stated that Gene Huntington from the Governor's office has told him there is money available in the Parks Fund and some of this could be used for a cemetery. John asked Jack McGlynn, Mike Wolf and General Duffy to look into the matter. There are many sites around the State available that could be used for a cemetery. Vince Caciari reported that the Superintendent of the Veterans Home at Columbia Falls had contacted him and they have 1200 acres that has been deeded to the State for veterans use. This land could be used for a cemetery. Bill Wilson, VFW, asked if there are Federal funds involved? John Grauman answered yes. Bill wondered if we would be in violation of the Federal Law since there are matching funds available.

Jack McGlynn then made a motion, and asked that letters be written to Mahan and Strobe, that the money is not to exceed \$12,000.00 for attorney fees. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Under new business, the claims were viewed and approved.

John Grauman brought to the attention of the Board that there have been complaints from the field offices concerning the delay in having their supply orders filled and travel claims processed. John asked Earl Vermillion, who is in charge of these items, if some kind of a schedule could be worked out concerning turn around time? Earl stated that it has always been a rule that the offices should keep a months supply on hand and order for the following month. He went on to say that 18 working days has been the longest period it has taken to get out an order. Orders used to be filled immediately but because of his additional work load he can't do this anymore. A discussion followed and it was suggested that form orders could be ordered directly from Fort Harrison. It was also suggested that each office buy their own supplies but this was ruled out as not being a good practice. The end result was Earl is to send a letter to the field staff explaining his situation and accepting suggestions from the field personnel for improvements.

Mike Wolf then passed out reports on the budget process and the changes concerning the Veterans Preference Law. He reported to the Board he has talked with Fred Olson concerning the complaint about his travel schedule and they had worked things out.

Neil Shepherd informed the Board that he had had a complaint about the Service Officer in his area not staying for the scheduled length of time at one of his stops.

Mike Wolf reported that he had written a letter to Dick Orman, (copy given to Board Members) questioning the unusual number of telephone calls made by his office and asking for an explanation for some of the calls. Mr. Orman replied by letter stating that he could justify all the calls as being veteran related. The calls to Mr. Grauman were to get clarity on the Veterans Preference Law.

Dr. St. John, the owner of the building in Butte, which was just vacated by the Veterans Affairs Division, has charged that the Veterans Affairs staff did considerable damage to the office and has presented the Board of Veterans Affairs with a bill for \$1,950.00. Mike Wolf stated that the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is involved as they were on the contract and he plans to discuss the matter with their attorneys. The office was not inspected by the owner before Veterans Affairs staff moved in and they contend the damage was already done. Jack McGlynn was appointed to work with Mike Wolf on this matter.

John Grauman, Chairman, instructed individual Board members to work with Mike Wolf concerning Mr. Reilly not staying for his scheduled time and Mr. Orman and the telephone issue.

Jeff Cochran, from the Governor's office, stated he has a problem justifying the retention of the attorneys on the Board of Regents lawsuit. He also feels that by continuing the matter would be going beyond the scope of what they were hired for and when Mr. Schram, attorney for the Board of Regents, asked for a dismissal we should have gone with it. It is his opinion we should back out and end this now.

Jack McGlynn objected, stating we should not turn our tail and run. The Board of Regents had no right to sue us in the first place. Why can't we recoup our expenses from them for a false lawsuit. John Grauman pointed out that he doesn't want the Board of Regents to think they have won.

Jeff replied that the Board's only concern is the constitutionality of the act and should bow out of the rest.

Jack McGlynn then made an amendment to the original motion of continuing with the attorneys that 'No Veterans Affairs funds be used for private individuals'. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion.

Vince Caciari expressed concern that perhaps the Board has acted too hastily and should consider the matter further, as we may end up complicating things more than we have intended.

Jeff Cochran stated that something needs to be done today if the Board is going to change their mind as the papers will be filed today.

John Grauman called for a vote on the amendment to the motion and the motion was lost.

Bernadette Opp then made a motion to reverse the original motion and to advise the attorneys to discontinue the Board of Veterans Affairs involvement in the Supreme Court action and to ask for a dismissal.

Jack McGlynn raised the question that what the legislature did to veterans is unconstitutional and are we cancelling ourselves from helping veterans?

General Duffy pointed out that the Veterans Service Organizations should take it from here.

Neil Shepherd seconded Bernadette Opp's motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3 to 0 with Jack McGlynn abstaining.

The question of hiring a Service Officer in the Miles City office was next on the agenda. Mike Wolf pointed out that before we can hire anyone, we must be able to show vacancy savings. By doing this it will be at least April 1, 1984. Mike will confer with the budget office to get a final decision. He also feels we should get new applications from everyone because of the new Veterans Preference Law. When the time comes we can hire then we will send out announcements.

John Grauman asked the Board to establish an emergency fund, on a voluntary basis, not to exceed \$100.00 so the money would be available to purchase flowers and cards as the need arises. Everyone agreed.

Vince Caciari brought to the Board a personnel problem that had happened at the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. He asked the Board's opinion about writing a letter to the Governor, with a copy going to Carroll South, Director of the Department of Institutions, stating the Board of Veterans Affairs feels the administration at Columbia Falls is quite satisfactory and doing a good job. The Board felt that this was something they should not get involved in.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M. The next meeting will be called at the pleasure of the Chairman.

At 1:15 P.M., the Board of Veterans Affairs held a special executive session. They had been informed by Phil Strobe that to agree to a stipulated dismissal that the Board of Veterans Affairs would be responsible for all court costs, meaning the costs incurred by the Board of Regents besides our own. The Board was not aware of this fact when they voted to have the case dismissed. After some discussion, Neil Shepherd moved to revive the original motion to continue with the attorneys as amended that no Veterans Affairs funds be used for private individuals, Bernadette Opp seconded the motion and it was carried with a 4 to 0 vote. It was understood that the Board of Veterans Affairs involvement is concentrated on the constitutionality of the law as to whether it can apply to one State Agency and not another and whether it can be retroactive or not. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.


John E. Grauman, Chairman


Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on the 23rd day of March, 1984 at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory, 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch. The meeting was called to order by John E. Grauman, Chairman, with the following members and guest present:

Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman
 Neil Shepherd, Secretary
 Bernadette Opp, Member
 Vince Caciari, Member
 Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
 Marie Hinman, Administrative Sec.
 James W. Duffy, Adjutant General

Tony Cumming, Adjutant, American Legion
 Bill Heikkinen, S.O. American Legion
 Bill Wilson, Adjutant, V.F.W.
 Gene Huntington, Governor's office
 Doug Booker, Budget Office
 Norman Wallin Rep. District 76
 Bob Ellerd, Rep. District 75
 Paul Boyland, Sen. District 38

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A report on the State Veterans Cemetery was heard from Jack McGlynn. Gilbert Bird in Ground from the Crow Agency has offered to sell land for a cemetery for \$2,500.00 an acre. There are 270 acres total, which bring the total cost to \$675,000.00.

Other sites discussed were Browning, Columbia Falls and Lewistown. There is a possibility the land could be donated. Individuals appointed to form a committee for the cemetery project were General Duffy, (Military Affairs) Tony Cumming, (A.L.) Bill Wilson, (VFW) Fred MacKintosh (DAV) and Mike Wolf, (Veterans Affairs). A tentative meeting of the committee has been scheduled for the 25th day of April at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory, Helena.

Jack McGlynn also reported he has received a letter for Denvel Adams, National Adjutant for the DAV stating that the Department of Montana, DAV, did not wish to participate in the United Veterans Council. Jack will meet with them and assure them that to participate would not be a hinderence to them. He also advised that the United Veterans Council now has funds amounting to \$7,200.00.

Mike Wolf reported that the Law Suit brought against the VAD by the Board of Regents has been concluded and the attorney fees of \$6,073.00 have been paid. The status of the alledged damage claim submitted to the VAD, by Dr. St. John, concerning the Butte office is: Mike met with Dr. St. John who agreed to settle for half of the original claim, however Mike then conferred with the attorneys for SRS who researched the case. The attorneys came to the conclusion that the VAD was not responsible for any damage and they in turn informed Dr. St. John of this fact. Dr. St. John has not responded to date.

Mike also advised the Board that the Human Rights Division has notified him that they are now working on Darrell Murray's case against the Division. To date no determination has been made.

Under new business, Mike informed the Board that Earl Vermillion has resigned. He has contacted all the offices to inquire if any one was interested in transferring to Helena. Only Cheryl Spencer from Billings and Frank Kankelborg from Bozeman were interested. It was decided to transfer Frank to Helena by April 1, 1984. Jack McGlynn complemented Frank on the fine job he is doing and expressed a read need to have a secretary in the Bozeman office.

At this point the Legislatures from the Bozeman area made known their concern of having the Bozeman office closed even for a short period of time. Doug Booker from the budget office stated that it would be the 1st of July possibly before the office could be filled.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning our budget. Gene Huntington explained the supplemental appropriations and Doug Booker explained that the money we save this year can be used to pay salary increases next year. Vince Caciari raised the question as to why the attorney fees came out of our budget. General Duffy answered the question that the Budget office expected the Division to make every effort to pay the cost and a supplemental would only be used as a last resort.

After debating the question of transferring Frank to Helena the end result was a motion by Jack McGlynn to leave Frank in Bozeman until he can be replaced. Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried. The duties of the vacant position in Helena will have to be absorbed by the present staff.

Mike also brought to the attention of the Board that he has received a letter from Jimmy Peterson requesting transfer from Kalispell back to Miles City. Vince Caciari explained that this request was due to personal matters. It was noted that Arlene Soderstrom, secretary in Kalispell, asked that this transfer, if approved, not be made until the end of August.

A motion was made by Vince Caciari, seconded by Jack McGlynn and carried that the Board approve Jim Peterson's transfer back to Miles City.

More discussion was held on the cemetery. Mike said he had received a call from the Indians wanting to know when they could expect their money. As Mike was unaware of what was going on, he referred the call to Jack McGlynn. Gene Huntington, Governor's office, stated that it is good a committee is now appointed and can find out what the veteran wants. The money will come from the Long Range Building Fund Program and there is a deadline in July to report to the Governor. This, of course, has to be approved by the Legislature before anything can be done.

The question came up concerning seniority with the transferring of one employee to another position. Mike responded that, this has been a policy of the Division but felt qualifications come first. Gene Huntington advised we check with the Department of Administration about filling the job internally first. It was noted that the grades of all Service Officers are the same so it would not be financially advantageous for anyone to move.

It was brought up that a letter be written to the field to make them aware of the necessity of getting the contact count up. Jack McGlynn stated he felt the field was quite aware of the need to keep our count up.

Mention was made of the fact that it is against the law for any State employee to discuss politics with Legislatures on State time and if you wish to lobby at the Legislature, you must first register. (Lobbyist Disclosure Act)

Bernadette Opp wondered if the Service Officers could attend Board meetings and did the Administrator visit the field offices. The answer to both these questions was yes, if money was available. She also wondered if the minutes

to the Board meeting were distributed and the answer was also yes, upon request.

The budget issue was once again brought back to the floor. Gene Huntington pointed out that if we ask for a supplemental that the budget analyst would go over our budget very thoroughly and it could result in a bitter issue.

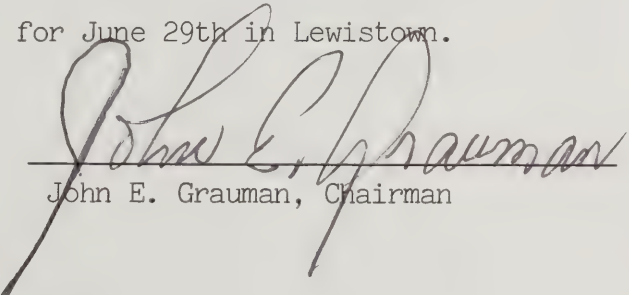
On the upcoming budget, if was suggested that we project retirements, and ask for funds to cover them.

Bill Heikkinen asked about the 10% the Governor has asked each agency to save. General Duffy explained that each individual agency was asked to research their budget to determine if 10% could be saved, however, if it would cause an impact, then it will not be taken.

Bill Heikkinen also asked for an explanation as to why the American Legion bulletins were not being sent to the offices. The American Legion in Washington D.C. sends enough copies of the informational bulletins to the Helena office to supply each field office with one. Mike Wolf stated that the other Service Organizations send each of the field offices bulletins direct. John Grauman brought up the fact that there seems to be some question as to the American Legion recruiting through their bulletins. Both Bill Heikkinen and Tony Cumming said no, this is not true. Tony said he has talked to some of the Service Officers and they feel the bulletins are beneficial. The point of paying postage to send these out was mentioned, however, they are sent out the supply orders, 3rd class, so this would not be an issue. Tony said he isn't asking these be distributed as a favor for the American Legion, its the veterans he's thinking about. Jack McGlynn made a motion that if the bulletin pertains to veterans, then send them out. The same applies to the other Service Organization bulletins. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion, and it was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting has been scheduled for June 29th in Lewistown.


John E. Grauman, Chairman


Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A special executive session of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called June 5, 1984 at 9:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory, at 1100 North Last Chance Gulch. The purpose of this meeting was to interview the 3 finalists for the recently vacated position of Administrative Assistant III in Helena. Those in attendance were:

Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman
Bernadette Opp, Member

Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
Marie Hinman, Administrative Sec.

The following were interviewed for the position:

Larry Morris, Havre
Jeff Harrison, Helena
John Horn, Helena

At 12:30 P.M., following the interviews, a telephone conference call was placed to the other members of the Board.

The applicants qualifications were discussed followed by a motion from Jack McGlynn to accept Jeff Harrison for the position. The motion was seconded by Bernadette Opp and carried with no dissenting votes. Michael Wolf, Administrator, was instructed to hire Jeff as soon as possible.

This will be confirmed by a signed statement from each Board member.

There being no further business, the call ended.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held in Lewistown on June 29th, 1984.



John E. Grauman, Chairman



Neil Shepherd, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Friday, June 29, 1984 at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, Montana, commencing at 10:30 A.M. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John E. Grauman, with the following members and several guests present.

Jack McGlynn, Vice Chairman
Neil Shepherd, Secretary
Bernadette Opp, Member
Vince Caciari, Member

Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
Marie S. Hinman, Admin. Sec.
James W. Duffy, Adjutant General

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The first order of business was a report from Jack McGlynn, Chairman, of the Cemetery Committee. The proposal was read on the cemetery being located at Fort Harrison. The sites at Lewistown and Hardin were again mentioned. Vince Caciari asked for clarification of the matching funds from the Federal Government if we acquired the land at Fort Harrison. Mike Wolf answered that they would match funds for any improvements to the property. Vince said he felt that the Fort Harrison site should be considered seriously, as it seems to be the most feasible.

Al Miron brought up the fact that there is a veterans cemetery at Columbia Falls, however, at the present time, it is limited to only residence of the Veterans Home. There is a possibility that this regulation could be changed.

There was some discussion on the Veterans Home at Columbia Falls being placed under the Veterans Affairs Division, Department of Military Affairs. Tony Cummings pointed out that this will have to be done by the Legislature and if the Department of Institutions still want the Home under their Department, it might be tough to get.

Jimmy Peterson raised the question as to how long it would be before there is a new Service Officer in Kalispell? John Grauman asked if this was a request for Jimmy to stay in Kalispell? Jim's answer was "basically yes". "I will go anywhere you want me to go". After debating the fact Neil Shepherd made a motion to leave Jimmy in Kalispell, Bernadette Opp seconded the motion and it was carried. Vince Caciari stated that in the future, when an employee asks to be transferred to a different location, they will have to adhere to that decision.

Jeff Harrison, newly hired Administrative Assistant in the Helena office was introduced. Jeff gave a brief background on himself and said he was glad to be a part of the Division.

Under new business, a request has been made to hire secretaries for the Bozeman and Wolf Point offices. The question was raised as to the justification of having secretaries in these offices. Etta Jaeger, secretary in the Miles City office will be retiring in April 1985 and that secretarial slot could be used in the office with the most claims. Mike Wolf is working on statistics and when these are complete, we will have some answers. Bernadette Opp made a motion that we ask for money in the budget to cover a secretary for Bozeman and a 1/2 time secretary for Wolf Point. Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Jack McGlynn made a motion that the Board members be issued telephone credit cards. Bernadette Opp seconded the motion and it was carried. Mike Wolf cautioned the Board that the communications portion of the budget is overspent for fiscal year 1983-84.

A letter from Frank Kankelborg, Service Officer in Bozeman, requesting some additions and changes in his office in Bozeman was discussed. General Duffy will take care of installing a door and the other items were tabled until the next meeting.

Bernadette Opp requested Mike Wolf to send a directive to all offices updating rules and regulations of the Division.

She also requested that when we have our annual training session in the fall that it be extended an extra 1/2 day to include a meeting of the secretaries and Service officers only. A motion was made to this effect, seconded by Neil Shepherd and passed.

A copy of the lobbyists law was distributed to each Board member because of the upcoming Legislature in January.

Mention was made that Dorothy Hill has offered the VFW Club in East Helena to any or all of our employees for any purpose during the training session this fall. Mike Wolf has written a letter thanking her for her generous offer.

Concerning a letter to Mike Wolf Administrator, with copies going to each member, from Dick Orman, Service Officer in Missoula about the denial of a travel claim, this was postponed to an executive session.

Election of new officer for the coming year was next of the agenda.

Bernadette Opp made a motion to elect Jack McGlynn as Chairman, seconded by Neil Shepherd and the motion carried.

Jack McGlynn made a motion to elect Bernadette Opp, as Vice Chairman, seconded by Neil Shepherd and the motion carried.

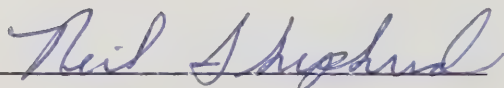
Neil Shepherd made a motion to elect Vince Caciari as Secretary, seconded by Jack McGlynn and the motion carried.

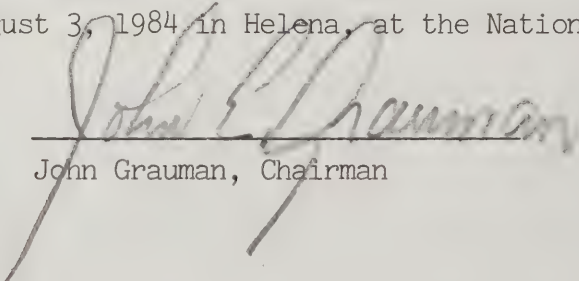
Vince made known his intentions to retire from the Board when his term of office is up. He has served for 15 years.

Bill Heikkinen made mention that all Service Officer are accredited with the VA now with the exception of Cheryl Spencer, who is not a member of the Legion.

The Board then retired into an executive session.

The next meeting has been scheduled for August 3, 1984 in Helena, at the National Guard Armory at 10:00 A.M.


Neil Shepherd, Secretary


John Grauman, Chairman

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held on Friday, August 3, 1984, at the National Guard Armory in Helena. Jack McGlynn, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. with the following members and guests present:

Bernadette Opp, Vice Chariman
Vince Caciari, Secretary
Neil Shepherd, Member
John Grauman, Member

James W. Duffy, Adjutant General
Michael V. Wolf, Administrator
Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Sec.
Tony Cumming, American Legion
Bill Wilson, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Under old business, Jack McGlynn gave a report from the cemetery committee. It has been decided that the cemetery site will be at Fort Harrison. General Duffy said he would ask Colonel Keim to start work on it, however, it will take time. He explained where the land is and that we will try to acquire 80 acres. Not all the land will be used to start with.

John Grauman and Bernie Opp were appointed as co-chairpersons with the Board as a whole acting on the committee. Vince Caciari asked what would be their function and the answer was to encourage the Service Organizations to seek funding from the Legislature to finance a cemetery.

It was noted that there is not a Federal Cemetery in Montana as there is not a large enough population.

Under new business, Bernie Opp reported that she had been in Kalispell and was discussing the Kalispell office with an individual that didn't know she was a member of the Board. They told her that they thought Arlene was doing a good job but were having problems with Jimmy. Vince said he had had the same complaints. The Kalispell office is a busy office and needs the best help possible, people that are dedicated to the cause of the veteran. Vince went on to say that the last legislative session changed things and the veterans preference is only used as a tie breaker. Arlene has the knowledge, apptitude, personality, etc. and should be considered for the Service Officer job.

Jack McGlynn stated that the Board has their own regulations on hiring veterans. Vince replied that to follow the regulations would be in violation of the law.

Vince then made a motion to advertize the job in-house and if none of the present Service Officers are interested in transferring to Kalispell, then promote Arlene Soderstrom, current secretary in the Kalispell office. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion. A discussion was held on the hiring of a non-veteran. Mike Wolf gave an explanation on the preference law, being that if two people are equally qualified then you hire the veteran. Tony Cumming, American Legion, was asked his opinion and he answered that it was a personal opinion but he could see no wrong in hiring Arlene, that we should do what's best for the veteran. Bill Wilson, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars said he has a problem with hiring a non-veteran and would like to discuss this with the VFW people. A vote was called for and the motion to promote Arlene to Service Officer if none of the present staff wished to transfer, passed 4 to 0. Chairman Jack McGlynn stated he was

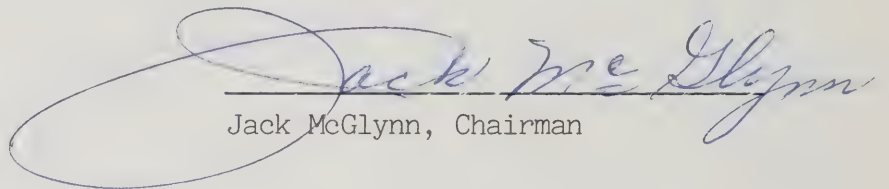
personally against promoting her because she is a non-veteran. A secretary will have to be hired for the Kalispell office. Mike Wolf will take care of this. Mike also informed the Board that he had conferred with Mr. Reilly concerning the allegations made against him and was confident they would not be repeated.

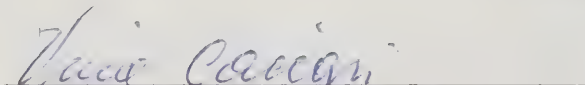
Concerning Jimmy, Vince made a motion that Mike write a letter to Jimmy about the complaints that have been made, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

Vince reported on the Veterans Home at Columbia Falls. He feels things are going very well, and at the present time there are a few opening in the domiciliary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for sometime in October. When an exact date has been set, everyone will be notified.


Jack McGlynn, Chairman


Vince Caciari, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held in the National Guard Armory at 1100 North last Chance Gulch on October 24, 1984 at 1:00 P.M.

Those in attendance included:

Jack McGlynn, Chairman	Marie S. Hinman, Administrative Sec.
Bernie Opp, Vice Chairman	Jeff Harrison, Administrative Assistant
Vince Caciari, Secretary	Tony Cumming, American Legion
Neil Shepherd, Member	Bill Wilson VFW
John Grauman, Member	Bill Comp, DAV
Michael V. Wolf, Administrator	Norman Laughlin, Guest
James Duffy, Adjutant General	Bill Heikkinen, Guest

Before the general meeting opened, Jack McGlynn, Chairman, called for an executive session of the Board which was comprised of only the five appointed Board members.

Chairman McGlynn then called the general meeting to order. Before the regular order of business began, Steve Keim, Construction Facility Engineer for the National Guard gave a report on the Veterans Cemetery. He explained where the exact location of the land is at Fort Harrison, gave a brief history of the land and followed up with maps and aerial photographs. He has met with U.S. Senator Max Baucus who has agreed to sponsor a Bill to Congress to transfer the land from the U.S. Government to the State of Montana. A survey and legal discription of the land will have to be secured and submitted and Colonel Keim will also meet with the office of Chief of Memorial Affairs in Washington.

John Grauman stated that we would ask the Legislature to give us back the funds that had been appropriated for a cemetery, but redesignated for another project, because they were not used. Mike Wolf interjected that this will be done by the Service Organizations, that is to sponsor legislation to appropriate money for a Veterans Cemetery.

Colonel Keim informed the Board that he will be retiring and will probably not be here to see this project through, however offered to assist in any way he could after his retirement in February. Jack McGlynn thanked Colonel Keim and praised him for all the work he has done on the project.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then read and approved.

Vince Caciari reported that the Kalispell office is running very smoothly and he has good reports. He also informed the Board that seven girls had been interviewed for the vacant secretarial position and the individual that was hired seems quite competent.

Bill Comp from the DAV thanked the Board for being asked to attend the meeting. Since he is new, he is trying to fit in and perpetuate his office. He has been working with our people and has had good rapport. He feels its a handicap to veterans of Montana to have to travel, because of the distance involved, and it is good to know our people will help. He offered his assistance to our organization if we should need it.

Bill Heikkinen stated he is going to Washington the first part of March and has offered to help in any way he can on the Veterans Cemetery.

Norman Laughlin from Missoula was then given the floor. He was critical of

individuals in the Helena office for the manner in which they had handled his claim to the Veterans Administration.

He feels the law on Veterans Preference is not being followed. He felt the voting members of the Board had acted improperly in promoting a non-veteran to a Service Officer position. He stated he has talked to veterans throughout the State and the feeling is that this situation is not a promotion. His opinion is, the Veterans Affairs stand on the issue has hurt their image across the State. He also referred to a promotional announcement Mike Wolf had made on the radio. He questioned how he could say this when non-veterans are running the organization. His stand on the issue is that veterans across the State have been short-changed.

General Duffy questioned Norman if he would want the Board to break the law to hire a veteran? Norman said he questioned the violation. General Duffy then asked him if he wanted a test case? Norman's answer was "if its a test case, then do it now!" General Duffy referred to the last case which cost the Division \$6,000.00 and we can't afford this. Jack McGlynn stated the Board is working on the situation and will have an answer at a later date.

Vince Caciari made reference to Norman accusing the Board of acting improperly. He pointed out that the law had been changed and the agency was founded for benefits for veterans. The trainee program was discontinued and veterans will be hired if the legislature changes the law. The most qualified individual was hired for the Service Officer position in Kalispell and they had done the best they could for veterans.

It was requested that when secretarial positions open that they be advertized in the Service Organization's paper.

Norman also brought up the fact that he was against the Job Service screening applications. He had applied for the Administrator's job the last time it was open and his application never got to the table.

Jack McGlynn stated he had traveled to Bozeman and the feelings of legislatures had changed. The changes in the veterans preference law is a big joke and a dis-service to veterans.

Chairman McGlynn also instructed the Administrator to see what could be done about getting additional funding in our budget for two additional secretarial positions and a standby trainee.

Mike Wolf responded that the two secretarial positions have been asked for. He also informed the Board that the money for our statistics has been thrown out. We have also asked for money for audits. At the present, this cost is being picked up by the Military Affairs.

John Grauman said we should get money back by going through Legislatures. He also made a motion to secure the necessary funding for a standby trainee position. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mike also reported that for the first time since August 1983, the Division is fully staffed. He did comment that if the Centralized Services in the Department of Military Affairs does happen, then we will lost one FTE.

General Duffy explained that the other Departments have one service to take care of all fiscal matters. To do this Military Affairs would take one em-

ployee out of each Division. He, however, is not in complete agreement with this and feels they may take the body but not the position. If this proposal is approved, it will take effect July 1, 1985.

Jeff Harrison submitted the claims to the Board for approval. He also passed out a breakdown of all money spent and percentages of the budget that has been expended since July 1, 1984.

John Grauman made a motion to approve the claims, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

The next regular meeting of the Board has been scheduled for January 11, 1985, in Helena, at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting recessed briefly and reconvened with the entire staff being present.

Jimmy Peterson was the spokesman for the Service Officers and they had some questions and requests of the Board.

1. Question - How is the Board going to replace Mike Wolf, Administrator, when he retires:

Answer - (Jack McGlynn) We will have to table this until a later date.

2. Question - Can the Service Officers go back to the old practice of hiring their own secretaries?

Answer - (Mike Wolf) Because of the change in the laws, the individuals qualifications have to be looked at closely and only those persons whose applications meet the qualifications are sent by Job Service. Marie Hinman also pointed out that the interviewer has to be very careful when interviewing applicants, that they don't ask illegal questions. A discussion followed.

3. Question - Can the Helena office put out a weekly bulletin to the field and also more news releases?

Answer - This will be looked into.

4. Question - Because of the situation at Fort Harrison on the 800 line now, would it be possible to get STS lines in all offices.

Answer - It has been investigated before and the feeling was that the cost was too high.

5. Question - Can the Service Officers be reclassified?

Answer - If the Service Officers are upgraded at this point, we will have to cut the staff due to the budget.

6. Question - Why can't we get comp time and overtime?

Answer - Only the Administrator is allowed comp time according to the Dept. of Administration rules and the Division is not funded to pay overtime.

7. Question - Is it within the State Law to promote the United Veterans Committee and collect dues on State time?

Answer - (Jack McGlynn) No...You cannot do this on State time. Even on your own time would be questionable. (General Duffy)- No, not when your a State employee.

8. Question - Can the Veterans Affairs office in Bozeman get a door and the Division would like 3 more copy machines.

Answer - This will be looked into.

The Service Officers also unanimously thanked the Board for promoting Arlene Soderstrom to Service Officer.

Lee Gully, spokeswoman for the secretaries asked if the following items could be provided:

Stamp Meters
Copy Machines
Get equipment repairs done locally
Outside signs for the offices showing "Veterans Affairs Division".

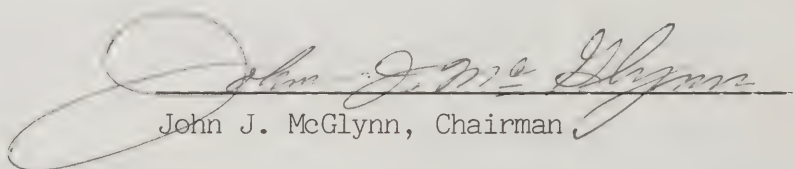
The above items will be checked into.

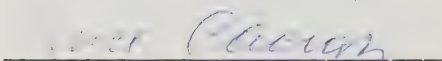
Pat Estenson, Superintendent of the Veterans Home at Columbia Falls gave a report on the Home. He said at the present time they have 16 vacancies in the domiciliary and 1 in the nursing unit.

He is at the present time preparing brochures on the Home and they should be ready for distribution before long. The new application forms will also be available shortly.

He also explained how the veteran is charged and the basis for ability to pay. Because of the changes at Fort Harrison concerning reimbursement for prescriptions, they have cut the patients board bill by the amount of the prescriptions. They are asking the Legislature for a $\frac{1}{2}$ time pharmacist and supplies in their next budget. He said at the present time there are 74 employees at the Home.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


John J. McGlynn, Chairman


Vince Cacairi, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was held in the National Guard Armory at 1100 North Last Chance Gulch on January 9, 1985, with the following members and guests present:

John McGlynn, Chairman	Steve Keim
Bernie Opp, Vice Chairman	William Heikkinen
Vince Caciari, Secretary	Bill Wilson
Neil Shepherd, Member	Tony Cumming
John Grauman, Member	Mike Wolf
Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary	

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Colonel Keim from the Department of Military Affairs, who has been working on the cemetery project, informed the Board he will be retiring the 15th day of February, however plans to follow the cemetery project through.

He gave the Board a detailed update on what has been done to this date which included aerial photographs, land survey and soil tests. He will be traveling to Washington D.C. and will discuss Montana's Veterans Cemetery with the Director of the Cemetery Grants. At that time he will find out what constitutes matching funds and if the value of the land can be used for such a purpose. He suggested that the Bill to be introduced to the Legislature should ask for at least \$200,000 for the project. He also noted that he has been in touch with other States that have established State Veterans Cemeteries and gotten some input from them.

Colonel Keim was then appointed to fill Mike Wolf's vacant position on the Cemetery Board, due to his retirement.

Pam Winthroe, from the Department of Administration, gave a brief presentation on the new hiring and recruitment policies and practices.

Jack McGlynn, Chairman, presented Mike Wolf with a certificate of appreciation, signed by Governor Ted Schwinden, for his ten years of dedicated service to the State of Montana.

Under new business, Marie Hinman explained to the Board that the State of Montana is in the process of reclassifying all the positions within the State Government. Once this project has been completed, the money to implement any upgrades in positions will come from a separate fund appropriated by the legislature. Any positions that are downgraded, will not affect the present employees, but will take effect on new employees filling any vacant positions.

A discussion was held on the Service Officer from Kalispell taking over Lake County which is presently being serviced out of the Missoula office. It was noted that only Polson was in question, not the whole County. The subject was tabled until a new Administrator is appointed and he will evaluate the situation and make the decision.

A motion was made to this effect by Bernie Opp, seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried.

Jimmie Peterson, Service Officer from Miles City, had the misfortune of being involved in an accident. He will be off work for an indefinite period of time,

perhaps until the middle of March. Mike Wolf has asked Etta Jaeger to postpone her retirement for a few month, so the office will not have to be closed. Etta has written a letter asking that she remain on the job until April 2, 1985, which would give her a full fifteen years with the State of Montana. John Grauman made a motion that Etta be granted the additional time, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

A motion was also made by John Grauman to have Jerry Collins from the Wolf Point office, cover the Miles City itinerant travel until Jimmy Peterson returned to work. Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Legislative Fiscal Analysts budget was next on the agenda. One of their proposals was to eliminate all of our field offices and carry out our field visitations from the Helena office. A lengthy discussion followed which included the uncertainty of who should appear at the Legislature on behalf of the Division. This subject was also tabled until the appointment of a new Administrator could be made.

A rumor has been circulating concerning John Grauman being asked to leave the hospital room of Jimmy Peterson in Billings. John asked this be put on the agenda for the purpose of clarification. He wishes it to be on record that the rumors are false and unfounded.


Two complementary letters addressed to the Board of Veterans Affairs were read. One letter complemented the Board for their selection in hiring Arlene Soderstrom in the Kalispell office and the other complemented Frank Kankelborg, Service Officer from Bozeman, for the fine job he is doing in Bozeman. A motion was made to send the individuals a copy of the letter and the original be retained in the employee file. The motion was seconded and carried.

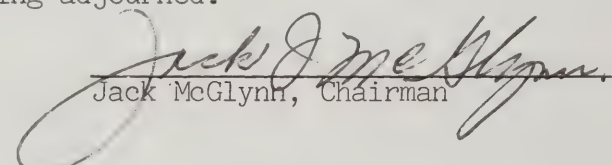
Vince Caciari brought it to the Board's attention that the patient load at Columbia Falls has doubled and requested that the Service Officer from Kalispell be allowed to make an extra trip to Columbia Falls to cover the additional workload, starting immediately. This would make a total of two trips monthly. A motion was made to this effect by Neil Shepherd, seconded by John Grauman and carried.

Mike Wolf, retired Administrator, offered his assistance at the Legislature if needed.

It is noted that the Board will spend the next two days interviewing applicants for the position of Administrator of the Division.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Vince Caciari, Secretary


Jack McGlynn, Chairman

At 2:30 P.M. January 11, 1985, the Board reconvened, with all members and General Duffy present. The interviews being completed and all scores finalized, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to hire Rich Brown to the position of Administrator.

Bernadette Opp was delegated to be in Helena, as acting Chairman, in the absence of Jack McGlynn, to represent the Veterans Affairs at the Legislative sub-committee hearing.

All business being concluded, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting has been scheduled for March 22, 1985 at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory in Helena.

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman, John McGlynn, at 10:00 A.M. on March 22, 1985, in the National Guard Armory in Helena, at 1100 North Last Chance Gulch.

The following members and guests were present:

Bernie Opp, Vice Chairman	Jeff Harrison, Assistant Admin.
Vince Caciari, Secretary	Tony Cumming, American Legion
Neil Shepherd, Member	Bill Comp, Disabled American Veterans
John Grauman, Member	Bill Wilson, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Rich Brown, Administrator	Dick Winter, D.A.V.
General Duffy, Adjutant General	Doug Fox, D.A.V.
Marie Hinman, Admin. Secretary	

Before the regular order of business began, Chairman McGlynn called upon Mr. Winter and Mr. Fox who wished to register a complaint on the procedure that was followed in hiring the Service Officer in Kalispell.

Mr. Fox and Mr. Winter felt that the method used was in violation of the Veterans Preference Act and the job was not advertized, which deprived anyone outside of the Division from applying. They feel the individual that was promoted to the job does not meet the qualifications. They are not questioning her personally but feel the Board did not follow regulations in hiring her. They felt her years of experience, working as a secretary, did not qualify her for the Service Officer position. An example being given, promoting a clerk to a teacher. They feel the Board, by not advertizing the position, did not assure the best possible person was hired. Jack McGlynn advised these gentlemen that he had met with several people in this area concerning her promotion and no one had any opposition, and the general feeling was good about her hire. Mr. Winter questioned this, as he felt that the hiring was done on personal feelings, not on qualifications and she will run into situations she can not handle. Bil Comp stated that all Service Officers should be accredited with the V.A. Vince Caciari voiced his opinion that we are not setting a precedence, this is a special case. We needed someone immediately and rather than spending a year to a year and one half training someone, we hired a knowledgeable person right there. The portion of the minutes of the August 3, 1984 were read concerning the discussion and the motion to hire Arlene Soderstrom as the Service Officer and also the regulations concerning the accreditation of Service Officers with the V.A. which state that those individuals who present claims before the various Boards and Adjudication officials of the V.A. shall be accredited, however, post service officers need not be officially recognized by the V.A. as a representative of a veteran's organization. General Duffy interceded at this point by explaining that there has been no violation of State Law in the method that the Service Officer was hired. You do not have to go outside, you can go in-house first. The Law governing the Board of Veterans Affairs was then questioned which states that "whenever possible, a veteran be hired." Mr. Winter was concerned about setting a precedence of hiring non-veterans. Rich Brown pointed out that since 1919 only one non-veteran has been hired and since the promotion of Mrs. Soderstrom, that two individuals have been hired which are both veterans. John Grauman suggested that if they are not happy with the veterans preference law as it now stands that they should work through the Legislature to have it changed. Mr. Winter and Mr. Fox thanked the Board for hearing their cause and excused themselves from the meeting.

Chairman McGlynn then opened the meeting for the regular order of business. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

The first item on the agenda was the budget. Rich Brown reported that 60% of our

budget has been spent, there are two Board meetings left, a proposed 3 day training session at Fort Harrison and additional equipment to purchase. He suggested to the Board that they consider limiting themselves on expenses and set up an estimated budget for themselves. It is his intention to zero out the present budget and he needs some sort of guidelines to follow as far as Board members expenses are concerned.

On the proposed training session at Fort Harrison, the V.A. has agreed to hold a three day intensive training session on April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th for all of our Service Officers. This would be very valuable to our newer Service Officers as well as updating the more experienced ones. Being a more personal workshop, the Service Officers, will have first hand knowledge of the internal workings of the V.A. system. Mr. Brown stated that he will be instructing the Service Officers to travel together as much as possible which will be a cost saving measure.

The need for new equipment within the Division is another imparative item. Six new typewriters have already been purchased and other items will be ordered as soon as possible.

On the statistical reporting, which had its inception in 1979 as the result of one Senator, has proven to be an invaluable tool to our organization. The method we are using is not good, as it is unprovable, and has wasted over 1,000 man hours that could have been put to better use. We will be eliminating the daily contact data, but retain the monthly monetary amounts, the statistical data from the claims officer and the control on appeals.

Mr. Brown advised the Board that Etta Jaeger, secretary from Miles City, will be retiring April 2, 1985. He would like to move that position to Bozeman and begin advertizing immediately. The statistics have shown that Bozeman is submitting four times the amount of material as Miles City, which proves the need for a secretary there rather than Miles City. His intentions would be to hire an individual on a "training assignment agreement" at a grade 8, advancing to a grade 9 in six months and to a 10 at the end of one year if satisfacotry progress is met. The Board concurred.

He also advised the Board that Al Honstain has been hired in Miles City, for the month of March, to try and raise the contact count in that area.

Mr. Brown wished the Board to be aware that he has been subjected to some criticism due to the fact he testified in favor of the Veterans Preference Bill when the Department of Administration was opposed to it. In the future, it is advisable to have communications between Departments regarding political views.

On the current budget, all Departments are subject to a 4% vacancy savings. This amounts to approximately \$18,000.00 a year for our Division which is equal to one full time position. Discussion on this subject was tabled. Mr. Brown also noted that the Legislature had imposed an additional 2% reduction in all budgets however he was able to exempt the Veterans Affairs Division from this. The \$6,513.00 additional money for equipment has been approved thus far. The travel and communications portion of the budget will be strained, however.

Mr. Brown also reported on the status of the other Bills which have a direct reflection on veterans. The monetary amount on the cemetery Bill has been changed from \$250,000.00 to \$62,000.00, and the Bill is currently in the House Appropriation Committee. Mr. Brown went on to say he has spent a lot of time at the Legislature with an unlimited support from General Duffy and Ken Cottrill.

Jack McGlynn reported he has had requests from several legislatures to have the Wolf Point office transferred to Havre. The Board asked Rich to investigate this possibility. Rich pointed out that Jerry Collins, Service Officer in Wolf Point is a Native American and since we have seven reservations in the State, he would like to send Jerry to all the reservations to gain the trust of the Indians. He will investigate this possibility, also. Another proposal for consideration would be to move the office in Miles City from the Armory to the V.A. Hospital, where we would be better able to service veterans.

At this time a letter from the Board of Veterans Affairs was presented to Rich Brown, for the outstanding job he had done in his short time as Administrator.


Gene Huntington from the Governor's office was then introduced. Mr. Huntington discussed the role of the Board in regards to political practices at the legislature. Any Bills that we are supporting should be discussed with the Governor's office before beginning any push for them. This is especially true on the proposal of any new buildings, etc. as the budget has already been set. He also went on to say that in order to lobby at the legislature, you must be registered, however, appearing at the request of the legislature is not considered lobbying.

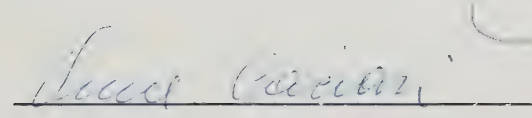
John Grauman made a motion to give Rich Brown authority to work with General Duffy and the Governor to set policies concerning this, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Bill Comp complimented Rich Brown on the excellent job he has done as Administrator.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the V.F.W. Convention in Missoula on June 14, 1985.


John J. McGlynn, Chairman


Vince Caciari, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called or order by Chairman John McGlynn, at 10:00 A.M. on June 14, 1985 at the Red Lion Motor Inn in Missoula during the V.F.W. Convention held there.

The following members and guests were present:

Vince Caciari, Secretary	Arlene Soderstrom, Service Officer, Kalispell
Neil Shepherd, Member	Bill Heikkinen, A.L. Service Officer, Stevensville
John Grauman, Member	Fred Olson, Service Officer, Butte
Rich Brown, Administrator	Jimmy Peterson, Service Officer, Miles City
General Duffy, Adjutant General	Jerry Collins, Service Officer, Wolf Point
Marie Hinman, Admin. Secretary	Dick Orman, Service Officer, Missoula

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Under old business:

Rich Brown, Administrator, reported to the Board that the three day training session in April, held at the Veterans Administration, was most successful. Our people had the opportunity to ask direct questions, learned the method of operation used by the V.A., the procedure for completion of claims work in a more efficient manner and the new programs instituted by the V.A. The responses back from our Service Officers and the V.A. were most favorable and indicated a desire to have this procedure continued. Mr. Brown asked for concurrence from the Board to eliminate the one day Fall training session and continue with the three day Spring session. Neil Shepherd made a motion to this effect, John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

Bill Heikkinen asked if the Post Service Officers from the Veterans Organizations could be included. Mr. Brown's reply was "yes, however they would like to limit the group in size." A discussion was held, the end result being to amend the motion to include "Department Service Officers". The Board concurred.

The next item on the agenda was statistical reporting. Mr. Brown explained our present method, (which includes the use of contact sheets), is not effective. We have changed our records keeping procedures to include tracking only awards, transmittals and the number of meeting attended. He recommended we institute a procedure to conform with other Service Organizations methods. The corresponding result would be a more accurate method and show a much larger return to the State in V.A. benefits paid veterans. John Grauman made a motion to adopt Mr. Brown's recommendation, Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Brown advised the Board that we have hired Carol Little for the secretarial position in the Bozeman office. Marie Hinman, the Administrative Secretary from the Helena office has informed him that she had adapted to her new job in record time. Her performance is excellent. He also explained that Carol has been hired on a "training assignment agreement" which starts at a Grade 8 and will advance to a Grade 10 by the end of one year if she meets the training requirements. He also went on to say that the claims work from the Bozeman field office has increased with the corresponding result in a loss of claims from the Miles City office. Its essential to have a secretary in each office and we will work with the Legislature for funding to make this possible.

The current budget was then discussed. Mr. Brown informed the Board that is is his intention to spend down to zero and he asked the Board to submit their travel claims now or by July 1st. He would also like to be advised of any expenses they may need to incur between now and July 1, 1985.

Mr. Brown reported to the Board that he now has Gerald Collins, Service Officer from Wolf Point, traveling to all the reservations of Montana in his capacity as a Native American Service Officer. Mr. Collins efforts have already shown additional contacts and awards. The long range goal of this program will be for our Division to set a new national trend in outreach to Native Americans. Jerry advised the Board that he felt the reception was excellent in contacting these reservations and will enhance the image of the Veterans Affairs Division. Mr. Brown said he has received an "atta boy" letter from the tribes concerning Jerry.

It was also brought up that Jerry would like to have a State car for transportation on these road trips. Mr. Brown told him we are investigating the possibility.

Concerning the Division's hiring practices, Mr. Brown offered the following suggestions and asked the Board for their concurrence.

1. All secretarial openings will be advertised locally in the area of hire. A copy of the job announcement will be sent to the Veterans Organizations newspapers.
2. All Service Officer openings should be advertised Statewide through the Job Service and again, copies be sent to the Service Organizations newspapers.

Because we are now an Administrative part of the Department of Military Affairs, we are and will continue to comply with their hiring practices. We may want to ask someone for the Military Affairs to sit in on our interviews and we would be happy to assist them if requested. Fred Olson posed the question if our field staff could apply for openings in the Military Affairs, the answer was "yes". Arlene Soderstrom asked for an explanation, and the reply was if you meet the qualifications and experience required, you may apply. John Grauman made a motion to concur with the proposal, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Brown then approached the Board concerning limiting themselves on expenditures in the form of a budget. Because the Division's travel budget has been reduced by \$7,000.00, some type of guidelines will have to be established with regards to attending Service Organizations meetings, etc. He also felt that the expenses for some Service Officers will be increased due to additional travel. John Grauman then made the motion, that for the next two years, the Board members will not submit travel claims for attending Service Organizations meetings. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Under new business, the 1986/87 and 1987/88 budget was discussed. Mr. Brown's feelings are that this will be the most trying time this Division has ever faced. Because of the advancing age of veterans, we will be facing a tidal wave of veterans seeking assistance and a rowboat of a budget to provide them help. Our most pressing concern is vacancy savings. During the next two years we will have to save \$30,000.00 in salaries. The only possible way of meeting this Legislative goal is a reduction in force. His feelings were that this reduction in force will have to be done in the Helena office as it would be impossible to eliminate anyone in the field. His suggestion would be to combine the Helena Service Officer position and the Claims officer position. This new position would be called a Senior Service Officer and serve in a supervisory capacity. Anyone qualified within the Division could apply. The Board would conduct the interviews and make the final decision, perhaps the second week of July. Some discussion was held concerning the duties and responsibilities of this new position. John Grauman then made a motion to adopt the program of reorganization, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried. The motion was then amended to read the interviews would be held on Monday July 7, 1985, with John Grauman, Jack McGlynn and Vince Cariari as the interview panel, rather than the entire Board.

The State Veterans Cemetery was then discussed. Mr. Brown reported that now we have the approval of the State Legislature and the Governor for the cemetery, we must seek Federal Legislation to transfer the land from the Department of the Army to the State of Montana, which is in the process. We are at the same time arranging for a cultural resources study to be done on the property. Mr. Brown suggested that the Veterans Organizations set policies and rules for burial in the cemetery. At this time, Jack McGlynn resigned as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee in favor of General Duffy. Jack agreed to act in the capacity of Vice Chairman and General Duffy accepted the Chairmanship.

Mr. Brown advised the Board that he is now working with Gary Refsland, Director of the Montana Center of Gerontology at M.S.U. and have devised a study concerning Montana's ageing veterans and the problems they will be facing. A meeting has been scheduled concerning co-ordination of benefits. Program announcements are being sent out.

In view of the Service Officer training session in the Spring being quite successful, Mr. Brown proposed to the Board, budget allowing, that he proceed with the V.A. in working out a smaller two day session of training for the Administrative Secretaries. Neil Shepherd made a motion to table a decision on this until the fall meeting. General Duffy pointed out that because laws and regulations are constantly changing, the need for training is essential. John Grauman seconded Mr. Shepherd motion to table the subject and the motion carried.

Last on the agenda was the election of officers. A motion was made by John Grauman to postpone the election until the next meeting, the reason being, Bernadette Opp is in line for the Chairpersonship and circumstances prevented her from attending the meeting. It was felt that she should be in attendance to personally accept the office. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting has been scheduled for September 20, 1985 at the National Guard Armory in Helena at 10:00 A.M.

Jack J. McGlynn

Neil Shepherd

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Jack McGlynn, at 10:00 A.M. on September 20, 1985, in the National Guard Armory in Helena, with the following members and guests present:

Bernie Opp, Vice Chairman
Vince Caciari, Secretary
Neil Shepherd, Member
John Grauman, Member

Rich Brown, Administrator
Marie Hinman, Admin. Sec.
Larry Longfellow, VFW
Bill Comp, DAV

The minutes of the June 14, 1985 meeting were read and approved.

The first order of business was the election of officers for the coming year.

John Grauman made a motion to elect Bernadette Opp as Chairman, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Grauman made a motion to elect Neil Shepherd as Vice Chairman, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

Neil Shepherd made a motion to elect John Grauman as secretary, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

Newley elected Chairman Opp, assuming her new duties, asked the meeting move on to the regular order of business.

The first item on the agenda was the Centralized Services Division with the Department of Military Affairs. Mr. Brown explained that Centralized Services is charged with the responsibility of taking care of the payroll plus paying of all the bills. We have been working with Ken Cottrell to make this transfer and set up the new system. This will not change the Division's money, only the method of disbursement. The system was slow is getting started, and some emergency warrants had to be issued for travel claims, however the situation was only temporary and the future outlook is very favorable. The advantage to the system is a 3rd level breakdown of all monies spent, meaning that we will be able to track the dollar amount expended to maintain each individual office where as in the past it was a lump sum amount for the entire Division.

We have as of this date dispersed 14% of our budget with 17% of the time expended. We currently have 18 full time employees and would like to get the $\frac{1}{2}$ position back we were originally budgeted for. All monies from the last fiscal year, which is approximately \$2,000.00 has been encumbered and part of that will have to be turned back. A short discussion was held on the vacancy savings.

John Grauman asked how much time the Wolf Point office is closed due to Jerry Collins being on the road. Rich Brown explained that we have a Green Thumb worker there that is assisting Jerry, however, we do not want to use this voluntary services as it could set a precedence.

Jack McGlynn posed the question as to the possibility of reopening the office we once had in Havre. A discussion was held and the feeling was that it would be possible if there was enough veteran population in the area to justify. Jack then made a motion to ask for funds at the next legislature to have a Service Officer in Havre. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

The new employees was next on the agenda. Mr. Brown informed the Board that we have hired Melinda Buxton for the secretarial position in Missoula. She has been hired on a training assignment agreement, starting at a grade 8 and advancing to a

Grade 10 at the end of one year if satisfactory progress is made.

Dennis Haughian has been hired as a temporary Service Officer in Miles City. Dennis came to us from the Veterans Outreach Center in Billings.

Dennis Pfaff was hired as the new Service Officer in Bozeman and he was currently employed by the Job Service in Bozeman as a D.V.O.P.

These two hires were both made in Bozeman and John Grauman represented the Board on the interview panel.

Elaine Warren was hired in the Helena office as a full time word processor. This position replaced the one-half time Administrative clerk position we had. Elaine will work for our Division three days a week and for the Centralized Services Division two days a week. Nancy Murphy who was the half-time employee was not able to meet the qualifications for the new position and therefore did not apply.

The Senior Service Officer position was filled by Fred Olson by the decision of the Board. This job was reclassified and went from a Grade 13 to a Grade 14.

Tom Hamilton and Jeff Harrison left immediately which put the office in a bind temporarily, however everything is now current.

Ralph Knobel, Administrator of the hospital has agreed to let us have an office at the V.A. hospital in Miles City. We will share office space with the D.A.V. who only use the office on an itinerant basis. This move will benefit the Division not only as a cost savings measure but also the location is excellent and will increase our claims work.

Mr. Brown informed the Board that the annual training session at Fort Harrison has been set for October 17th and 18th. He would like to have approval to bring in the new secretaries for training at the V.A. on the 17th and to work with Fred and Marie on the 18th on our programs. John Grauman made a motion to bring the secretaries in, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Brown also wished to advise the Board of the reorganization of travel schedules of certain Service Officers to pick up the travel left open by the changes in the Helena office. Missoula will now go to Lincoln, Bozeman will pick up Townsend, and Butte will cover Boulder.

Mr. Brown informed the Board that the new reorganization is working however it has placed a real burden on the Helena office. He believes part of the answer would be to switch from our present filing system to microfiche. We can not do away with the State office files as they are a back up to prove claims received etc. Currently there are some 53,000 files and the number is increasing. We will approach the Legislature and try to secure funding for such a program.

Jack McGlynn asked what the possibility of having a separate listing in the white pages of the telephone book so we can be more easily identified. Rich Brown said he would check into this.

John Grauman made a suggestion that we distribute postal cards in certain locations that veterans may pick up and mail back if they need assistance. It was pointed out that we are basically doing this thru the use of business cards. Fred Olson voiced his opinion saying that he feels thru publicity we are letting the individuals know where they can obtain help. Rich Brown suggested we take one field office and pilot the program and we also need to have more posters displayed.

Neil Shepherd made a motion to start a pilot program in one office, John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

The next subject was the D.A.V. and the V.F.W. contracts. In the past, Mr. Brown explained, these were just renewed. The contracts say "secretarial service". We have had an inquiry from the D.A.V. asking to use the money for equipment and supplies. In researching the issue, he has found the contract to be inadequate. This goes back to 1962 when the Supreme Court ordered the Veterans Affairs not to pay the contracts as it was unconstitutional. The Board of Examiners then copied a janitorial contract and paid the money. It was eventually passed back to the Veterans Affairs Division using this same janitorial contract and has been paid ever since. We are not getting any accountability from these organizations as to where the money goes, only service reports. We have contacted Mona Jamison, in the Governor's office, to rewrite the contract to substitute secretarial services for janitorial service and include equipment and supplies. We will also ask them to prepare an accountability report. The response from the Governor's office has been slow and we are now paying these organizations without a contract.

Under the new programs, Rich Brown gave the following report:

1. Native American - Jerry Collins has been going to the reservations as an outreach person. Now that he is established, we will limit this service to only special days or by invitation only. Jerry will be making a report on contacts, etc. We will develop a different type of plan to reach Native Americans such as working through the Indian Health Service. We will be contacting the area director in Billings.
2. Deer Lodge State Prison - There are no records to show who the veterans are in Deer Lodge and working through normal channels is ineffective. The Veterans Administration and the Vets Center cannot provide the service to the inmates that they need. We are now working with the AFL-CIO who have a contract with S.R.S. through the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Those prisoners who are eligible for parole or pre-release in one year are eligible for Voc Rehab. We are going to the prison on a monthly basis as well as a lady from the Missoula Vets Center who is working on the P.T.S.D. program. Since the prisoners can still receive part of their benefits, there is work we can do and are doing there. We will be forming a liaison team, made up of 2 inmates, providing them with forms etc. and they will be handling the claims work. Vince Caciari said he was disturbed about this as these people are in there because they have committed crimes. A discussion followed concerning the rights of the incarcerated.
3. The Aging Veterans Program - This program is expanding faster than expected. Through the efforts of the State Departments and the Service Organizations what is accomplished regionally may become a national standard. We will combine all programs to a booklet form for distribution. A brief discussion was held and examples given on how the program will work.
4. Women Veterans Program - Mary Hagberg has been appointed by the Veterans Administration Regional office to head the women's veterans program. She has asked Rich Brown to be on the committee and he said he has accepted. He felt that in view of the new Chairperson of the Board of Veterans Affairs, it was an excellent opportunity to reach out to female veterans.

On the cemetery, we have no new news. There has been no movement in Congress as of yet. The preliminary cultural resources study has been done and there are no problems.

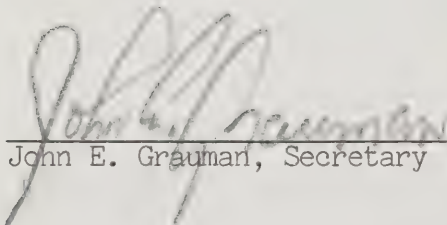
Mention was made about having the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls come under our Agency. It was felt that all veterans programs could be handled together. We will work through the legislature on this.

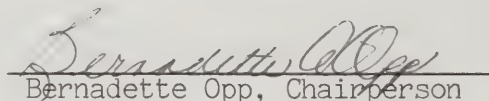
On our statistical reporting, Rich Brown reported that by using the new tracking system on awards that there has been a 114% increase. The transmittal sheets submitted show an increase of 9%. We will continue to keep the Board apprised on the statistics. They should continue to grow.

Larry Longfellow of the Veterans of Foreign Wars advised the Board he is anxious to work with the Division in any way possible. He is the State Editor for the VFW newspaper and if we should need his help he would be happy to do what he can. The bottom line is helping the veteran.

Before the meeting adjourned, Marie Hinman was presented with a letter signed by all Board members, thanking her for her many years of dedicated service to the Division and the veterans of Montana. Marie expressed her gratitude for being recognized for her accomplishments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting has been scheduled for December 6, 1985.


John E. Grauman, Secretary


Bernadette Opp, Chairperson

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Bernadette Opp on December 6, 1985, at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory in Helena, with the following members and guests present:

Vince Caciari, Member
John Grauman, Secretary
John McGlynn, Member
Rich Brown, Administrator

Marie Hinman, Admin. Sec.
Fred Olson, Senior Service Officer
Pam Pederson, Service Officer
Tony Cummins, A.L.

Before the regular order of business began, Pamela Pedersen, newly hired Service Officer for Miles City was introduced to the Board. Pam told the Board she was glad to be here and felt she had her work cut out for her. She will give it 100%.

Rich Brown suggested to the Board that Pam (who is currently living in Kalispell) train with Arlene Soderstrom, Service Officer in Kalispell for one week, travel to Helena, spend two days training with Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary, and then be accompanied to Miles City by Fred Olson who will help her get set up in her new office. John Grauman made a motion to this effect, Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried.

Mr. Brown also advised the Board that we have hired a temporary employee, Beverly McCarty, in the Helena office to bring the filing system up to date. There are 39, 4 drawer file cabinets which contain files for some 55,000 veterans and dependents. Although these same records are at Fort Harrison and also in the field offices, it is essential we keep the master file in the Helena office. The transmittal document (original) is date stamped and returned to this office as acts as proof of receipt. Also, these records act as a support for lost records in the field as well as at the V.A. We will be asking the Legislature for funds to have these records put on micro-fiche. Beverly has been hired at a Grade 8, step one. Being temporary, there are no benefits.

The regular order of business then began with the minutes of the meeting of September 20, 1985 being read and approved.

Vince Caciari made a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting be mailed to each Board prior to the next scheduled meeting thus eliminating reading the minutes during the meeting. John Grauman seconded the motion and it was carried.

The budget was the next item on the agenda. Rich Brown said he would like to run the temporary employee to a maximum. The operations budget will run over in communications and travel. He has cut back on the Native American program, meaning Jerry Collins will only travel to Native American functions for special occasions, and not routinely.

A discussion was held concerning the listing of Division phone numbers and also a toll free number in Helena. The Citizens Advocate office (which has a toll-free number) does make referrals to us. The proposal was made that our Division have their own toll-free number. Rich Brown will check into the cost and have the information available at the next meeting. He did say however, that this can not be done in this fiscal year.

He also made mention that the National Guard has bought the phone system in Missoula and is considering doing the same in Bozeman. This is a cost saving measure.

Rich Brown would like approval of the Board to send Fred Olson to Washington, D.C. in February to the National American Legion Convention if funds are available. John Grauman made a motion that Fred be sent to Washington, D.C. if money was available. Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried.

Vince Caciari asked if the Native American Program would limit travel for other Service Officers. Rich Brown's answer was no, not at this time.

Vince also asked that the Helena office correspond more with the Board so they may keep informed as to what is going on.

On the aging veterans program, Rich briefed the Board on the Conference that was held here in Helena. There were 90 to 100 people that attended. From our Division, Rich Brown, Marie Hinman, Fred Olson, Ruddy Reilly, Cheryl Spencer, Arlene Soderstrom and Jerry Collins were present. There were individuals there from 5 mental health regions, medicaid, protective services, aging services and the Veterans Administration. Areas discussed were awareness, alternative systems to care for the aging veterans, cost sharing, contacts, and coordination of programs. Mr. Brown felt the conference was very successful. He also traveled to Butte, along with Roger Novotne, Veterans Administration, and Don Secora, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, to appear on the "Face the State" program.

On the Womens Veteran Program, Bernadette Opp, Chairperson of the Board of Veterans Affairs, attended a special program at the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison on women veterans. It was felt this program would expand with exposure.

Vince asked why the Board was not asked to attend the Aging Veterans Conference. Rich Brown explained that the original intent of the meeting was for only technicians but said it was an error on his part for not letting the Board know.

Concerning the incarcerated veteran program at Deer Lodge, The Montana State Prison has agreed to have new prisoners fill out a form if they are a veteran. The A.F.L.-C.I.O. has agreed to pay for Dr. Mozer, Psychologist, to interview 10 candidates for treatment for P.T.S.D. The Missoula Vets Center has agreed to provide travel for Phil Burgess, Counselor, to Deer Lodge on a bi-weekly basis for P.T.S.D. veterans.

The Native American Program has increased contacts and claims plus has advised the Native Americans of their rights as veterans. The program however cannot be justified as to the expense and will have to be limited. Additional money will have to be secured from the Legislature if it is to be continued.

The paying of the secretaries for the D.A.V. and the V.F.W. on a contract basis has been brought up again. Rich Brown talked with Mona Jamison, Chief Legal Counsel for the Governor's office and her informal opinion was that our Division should not be paying these Service Organizations. He then discussed this with Michael Husit, an attorney that works for the National Guard and Mr. Husit's feeling were the same. Mr. Husit advised Mr. Brown to seek an Attorney General's opinion, which has been done. We have had no response from the Attorney General to date. When an opinion is reached, Rich will notify the Board of the decision, before anything is done.

The awards for the last quarter, plus October, were then discussed. It was pointed out that the reason the transmittals have not increased was because more

complete claims are being submitted, thus eliminating the need for additional transmittals.

Fred Olson informed the Board that he had attended a training session at Fort Harrison designed for the Rating Board. He explained how the Rating Board operates and how he, as a Claims Officer, works in conjunction with the Rating Board.

Rich Brown proposed that perhaps in April we have a training session with Fort Harrison and include all of our employees. The Board concurred.


Ken Cottrill, Administrator of Centralized Services for the Department of Military Affairs joined the meeting and was introduced. Ken is now processing our monthly awards report on his computer. Rich complimented Ken on the fine job he is doing. He also explained to the Board how we are using a new system on accountability and how it works. He would like to have an incentive program (January verses January for each office) Perhaps have a traveling plaque type of system and at the end of the year the office with the largest money count, keep the plaque.

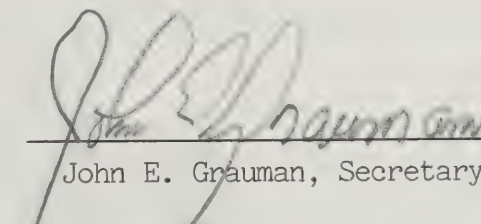
On the State Veterans Cemetery, to be located at Fort Harrison, the Bill to transfer the land has been signed into law by the President of the United States. Senator Ron Marlene was instrumental in getting this accomplished and Mr. Brown would like to ask him to be here for the dedication. The only stipulation concerning the land transfer is, it can only be used for a cemetery.

The U.V.C. will be holding a meeting next week and at that time will discuss how to proceed with setting up rules and regulations for the cemetery. A suggestion was made that perhaps a questionnaire be sent to veterans throughout the State asking for opinions. This could be accomplished through the Service Organizations newspapers.

There being no further business, John Grauman made a motion to adjourn, Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for March 7, 1986 in Helena at the National Guard Armory, commencing at 9:00 A.M.


Bernadette Opp, Chairperson


John E. Grauman, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Bernadette Opp on March 28, 1986, at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory in Helena, with all members being present. The meeting was also joined by the majority of the Veterans Affairs Division staff and several guests.

A motion was made by John Grauman, seconded by Neil Shepherd and carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

The first order of business was a discussion on personnel changes. Rich Brown, Administrator, advised the Board that Charlene Kerr, secretary in Kalispell had resigned and Carolee Fisher has been hired in her place. She began her employment on Tuesday, March 25, 1986. Also, Dick Orman, Service Officer in Missoula has sent in notification of his intent to retire. His last day of employment will be March 28, 1986. Due to vacancy savings, this position will be left vacant temporarily with the projection of hiring a new Service Officer the first part of May.

The second item on the agenda was a discussion on the budget for the fiscal year 1985-86. Rich Brown explained that the last Legislature had basically given us what we asked for however due to the 4% savings imposed on all Departments, we had to eliminate the Administrative Assistant position. We were able to increase the half time position to full time and that position works for the Veterans Affairs three days a week and for the Centralized Services Division two days a week. We have also eliminated the Native American Program. Although the program was successful it became too costly to continue. Then in addition to the 4% reduction, an additional 2% savings was imposed in February. This amounted to \$9600.00 for our Division. We were able to meet this through payroll savings and turning back the money that had been appropriated for equipment purchases and not yet been used.

We are now looking at a \$2,000.00 shortfall in the operations budget and a \$2,000.00 shortfall in the payroll.

In order to balance the budget, Mr Brown suggested that the Board hold its next meeting after the first of July, the Service Officers combine their May and June travel and the Service Officer position be left open for the month of April.

John Grauman made a motion to hold the next Board meeting after the first of July, Vince Caciari seconded the motion and it was carried.

Neil Shepherd made a motion to leave the Missoula Service Officer position open until after May 1st, Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Grauman made a motion the Service Officers combine their travel for May and June, Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

The third item to be discussed was the budget forecast for 1986-87 fiscal year. Major Ken Cottrill, Administrator of Centralized Services was introduced to the meeting. Ken explained how the projections for revenue are made what happens if goal are not reached. Its a fact at this point in time that revenue projections have fallen short and there is a major deficit in the State of Montana monies. The Governor has asked for a special Legislative session in June to try to correct the problem. It is felt the Governor will ask for a 5% savings from each Department and cancel all pay plan increases.

On the Veterans Cemetery, Rich Brown informed the Board of the progress. The land has been deeded for the Federal Government; Michael Bolin, a member of the National Guard has been named project manger; the the next step is to hire a general engineering firm to develop the property. The contract will be awarded and the grant written, perhaps by the first of July. This will all have to take place soon, as

due to the Gramm Rudman Act, all Cemetery Federal Grant Money will be discontinued as of October 1, 1986.

Chairperson Opp then called upon Rich Brown to discuss the impact the budget cuts would have on our Division.

Mr. Brown handed out an impact statement which, in summary, discussed the value of the Division and by elimination it would cost Montana veterans and the economy millions of dollars in lost benefits and would create an additional corresponding burden on the welfare programs of this State.

Mr. Brown explained different options that have been suggested to him, to make these cuts, among which were combining offices or utilizing a toll free number. He feels at this point that none of these would work. He then asked the Board for direction on how he should proceed as he is in receipt of correspondence from Dave Hunter, Budget Director, asking for a response by April 15, 1986. Mr. McGlynn stated that in his opinion that no cuts should be made and that be our response. After a lengthy discussion, John Grauman made a motion that we proceed with our original intention and ask for a Havre office, two additional secretaries and additional operations money. Rich advised the Board that if we don't submit a proposal to the budget office then that office will make the cuts for us. Mr. McGlynn responded by saying "That is our challenge".

Fred Olson then explained the statistics for the Division and how they had increased drastically over the past few months. He feels we have an excellent staff, that is doing more than ever before.

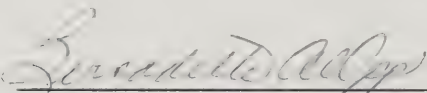
Chairman Opp then brought the meeting back to the budget, with a question directed to the Board on why are we asking for more money when the Budget Office is asking for ways we feel we can make cuts. Mr. McGlynn responded that he feels we should fight against any cuts. More discussion was held and the end result being Jack McGlynn said he felt the issue should be closed. When the time comes, then it will be discussed.

Rich Brown then explained to the Board that the Attorney General's opinion that he had asked for, concerning the legality of paying for Secretarial Services to the D.A.V. and V.F.W., had to be resubmitted as General Duffy is the proper individual to ask for an opinion. This has been done and we are now waiting for a decision.

John Grauman then made a motion that the discussion on reclassification of the Service Officer positions be postponed until the next meeting. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Lee Gulley asked if the secretaries could be considered for a raise? Rich Brown explained how the State pay plan works and that raises are given in accordance with the Pay Plan schedule.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to Jorgenson's where a luncheon was held honoring Vince Caciari, who is retiring from the Board after sixteen years of dedicated service to the Division. The next meeting will be held in Missoula, on July 11, 1986.


Bernadette Opp, Chairman

John Grauman, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairperson Bernadette Opp on July 11, 1986 in Missoula, Montana at 2:00 P.M.

The following members were present:

Neil Shepherd, Vice Chairman
John McGlynn, Member
John Gallagher, Member
Robert Durkee, Member

Rich Brown, Administrator
James Duffy, Adjutant General
Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary
Fred Olson, Senior Service Officer

Also in attendance were several guests which included present Service Officers, past Service Officers, a past Board member and several American Legion members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

The new Board members were introduced. John Gallagher is from Havre and Robert Durkee resides in Helena.

The first item on the agenda was a review of the 1985-86 budget. Rich Brown advised the Board that our budget for the 85-86 fiscal year was \$473,000.00 after the 2% savings. The savings was made through payroll, plus not using all the money that had been appropriated to purchase equipment. At the next meeting we will have broken figures relating to each office and Board expenses. The supplies are all charged to the Helena office and not broken down to each office use. He estimated that there is \$3,200.00 left in our budget and \$3,000.00 of that money would be spent on payroll. The figures we have show that the Division overspent in operations and underspent in personnel services. We have used approximately 98% of our budget.

The next item on the agenda was the Boards policy on hiring employees. Minutes of previous meeting were handed out and Mr. Brown pointed out that the policies have varied in the past and feels a new policy should be established. There was a problem with the hiring of the Service Officer in Missoula and the problem should be addressed. Jack McGlynn stated that he feels the Board should do their duty and that includes hiring of the Service Officers, with the Administrator being responsible for hiring of secretaries. Mr. McGlynn went on to say he had received a letter from the Chairperson of the Board advising him that a three member panel (one Board member, the Administrator, and the Senior Service Officer) would do the hiring of the Service Officer in Missoula, The letter also stated that all Board members were welcome to attend the interview but would have no vote and would attend at their own expense. He stated that no one can take the privilege as Chairman to refuse other members a voice in the selection. He went on to say that after some telephone discussions, he received a letter withdrawing this policy. He also felt the Bozeman hire was in violation as he was not contacted. The system is not adequate. The Board should take an active interest in hiring employees. Mr. McGlynn then made a motion that the Board hire the Service Officers and the Administrator hire secretaries and below. More discussion followed and several suggestions were made on how the procedure should be handled. The end result was the agreement that each Board member would have an area of responsibility for hiring and that member will interview the applicants along with the Administrator and Senior Service Officer in their area. Jack McGlynn would be responsible for Butte and Missoula, Bernadette Opp will cover Bozeman and Billings, Neil Shepherd's area would be Great Falls and Kalispell, Bob Durkee will take Helena and John Gallagher will have Wolf Point and Miles City. The applications will be screened in Helena and copies of the top 8 to 10

applications mailed to each Board member for review. The member responsible for the area, the Administrator and the Senior Service Officer will do the actual interviews and then contact the entire Board for a final decision. The entire Board will interview and hire the Administrator and Senior Service Officer. The secretaries and below will be interviewed and hired by the Administrator, the Senior Service Officer and the Service Officer of the office concerned. Jack McGlynn amended his motion as per the agreement, Bob Durkee seconded the motion and it was carried.

Bernadette Opp thanked Rich Brown and General Duffy on behalf of the Board for the hours they spent and work they did during the special Legislative Session.

The 1986-87 budget review was then discussed. Rich handed out the budget expenses, and also a statistical report that showed the monetary awards for each office plus the transmittals that are sent in. The report was rated according to work each office does. Rich informed the Board that the Legislative Fiscal Analyst had recommended to the Legislature that: 1. The entire Division be eliminated; or 2. Eliminate all but the Senior Service Officer or 3. Cut our field offices from 8 to 5. The motion was defeated 13 to 3. What we are faced with however is a 5% across the board budget cut, a 4% vacancy savings and if the Unions don't agree to renegotiate the contracts and agree to a salary freeze, we will have an additional \$14,000 to pay out of salaries. The 4% vacancies savings can be accomplished by the elimination of the temporary position we have in Helena that is being used to update our files. The 5% could be taken care of by cutting the field office secretaries to a 35 hour work week and discontinue paying the secretarial position of the D.A.V. and V.F.W. at Fort Harrison. (The elimination of the contracts for the V.F.W. and D.A.V. was to be done anyway due to the Attorney General's opinion which states it is unconstitutional). A letter was written to the secretaries advising them that their hours would be cut and 3 negative responses were received with the suggestions that everyone take cuts, stop travel, stop the training sessions and the Service Officers hours be cut. Because none of these suggestions are workable the only other alternative would be a reduction in work force. Rich made a recommendation to the Board, based on the workload of each office taken from the statistics, to close the Billings secretarial position to cover the 5% and if the pay plan goes through then the elimination of the Butte secretarial position would be necessary. Both of these individuals have seniority and can "bump" another secretary if they so choose. Rich said he felt that we should put our priorities in order and the veterans come first and then the employees. The other alternative would be to combine offices and eliminate Service Officers. Mr. Brown pointed out that a decision has to be made by August 1, 1986. General Duffy pointed out that we are not looking at a time period of one year but at least 3 years. Many questions were posed and an in-depth discussion followed concerning the options. Rich Brown pointed out that Marie Hinman's position in Helena was exempt from any hourly reductions as her duties are of a completely different nature than those of the field secretaries. A reclassification of her job will be done at a later date. Fred Olson pointed out that his feelings were that the Service Officer's hours could not be cut as they were underclassified now and we would probably lose some very valuable personnel.

A motion was then made by John Gallagher to eliminate the temporary position in Helena to cover the 4% vacancy savings. Neil Shepherd seconded the motion and it was carried.

Neil Shepherd made a motion to close the secretarial position in Billings to take care of the 5% budget reduction and, if the pay plan is not frozen, to eliminate the secretarial position in Butte. John Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion

carried with 2 members voting for, Bob Durkee opposing and Jack McGlynn abstaining.

Rich Brown then handed out letters of support we have received from the V.A. and also a copy of the impact statement which shows how much the V.A. has spent in Montana in the form of veterans benefits.

Our program objectives and performance evaluation was then handed out. Our performance evaluation is determined by tracking the monetary amounts of the awards to veterans and dependents. This shows how much the Veterans Administration is spending in Montana by County. Our objective is to adopt the ability to outreach to individuals to get them off medicaid and on to the V.A. pensions; to assist the incarcerated veterans at Montana State Prison; to educate veterans and veterans families on V.A. benefits.

The Incarcerated Veterans Program has started P.T.S.D. classes and Project Challenge Work Again has been set up by the AFL-CIO. There are 9 prisoners on the program now. On September 19, 1986, the Veterans Affairs Division is planning an interstate conference which will address issues, resources and strategies to assist aging veterans and their dependents. General Turnage, Director of the Veterans Administration; Carol Fraser Fisk, Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Aging; officials from the V.A. and State Veterans offices from a nine State area; the Governor's Council on Aging, Social and Rehabilitation Services; and representatives from all Service Organizations have been invited. On the Women's Veteran Program, we are now tracking all women veterans who have been recently discharged and encouraging them to use their V.A. benefits. The Native American Program has been abandoned due to lack of travel funds. The possibility of Jerry Collins, our Native American representative, traveling with General Duffy is being investigated. These individuals need to be reached as they are not getting their benefits.

Rich Brown then brought the Board up to date on the Montana Veterans Cemetery. He showed them the master plan of the cemetery and explained that the U.V.C. will be adopting the rules for the cemetery.

Al Miron posed the question if the Department of Military Affairs had any problems with the Veterans Administration. The answer was "no", there is a good working relation between the Veterans Affairs and the V.A.

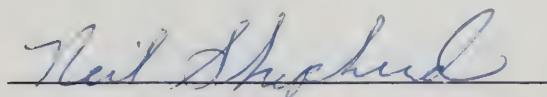
The last item on the agenda was the election of new officers.

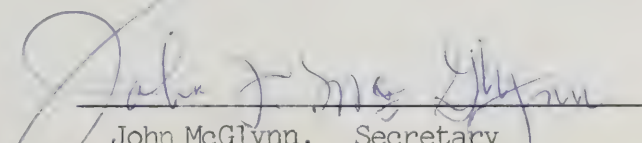
Jack McGlynn nominated Neil Shepherd as Chairman, Bob Durkee seconded the nomination and a unanimous vote was cast.

Neil Shepherd nominated John Gallagher as Vice Chairman, Jack McGlynn seconded the nomination and a unanimous vote was cast.

Neil Shepherd nominated Jack McGlynn as Secretary, John Gallagher seconded the nomination and a unanimous vote was cast.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held in Billings on Thursday, September 18, 1986 at the Sheritan Hotel at 2:00 P.M. to coincide the the Aging Veterans Conference and the American Legion Rehabilitation Workshop.


Neil Shepherd, Chairman


John McGlynn, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Neil Shepherd on September 18, 1986, at 2:00 P.M., in Billings, Montana, with the following members and several guests present:

John Gallagher, Vice Chairman
 Jack McGlynn, Secretary
 Bernadette Opp, Member
 Bob Durkee, Member

Rich Brown, Administrator
 Fred Olson, Senior Service Officer
 Marie Hinman, Administrative Secretary

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following amendments: John Gallagher will share the Great Falls area with Neil Shepherd with relationship to hiring new employees and the signature block for the Secretary be changed to show Jack McGlynn as secretary rather than John Gallagher.

The first item on the agenda was the relocation of the Billings office. Rich Brown explained to the Board that the Veterans Administration has offered us free office space in the outpatient clinic in Billings. We would save \$1,500.00 in rent this year and \$2,000.00 next year plus having access to the F.T.S. telephone lines. At the present time S.R.S. is billing us 10% of their telephone charges as our part of the long distance calls. Jack McGlynn made a motion to approve moving the office to the clinic, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Veterans Cemetery. Rich Brown provided the Board with the initial plans for the cemetery. He explained that the water had been a problem however by making a few changes the situation was remedied. To date the wall on the frontage of the property has been built and the driveway put in. The rules were given tentative approval by the U.V.C., however there has been a problem with rule XXI, concerning the Director, and will have to go back to the U. V.C. for approval. Mr. Brown suggested to the Board that Fred Olson, Senior Service Officer be appointed as the Director as this will have to be, at least for the time being, a voluntary position. The rules will have to be firm before they are taken to the public, to avoid having to make any amendments. The anticipated date to have the cemetery operational is Spring of 1987. Because the Board members had questions concerning the design, Mr. Brown will ask Mr. McKenna, the architect on the project to attend the next meeting. At this time Jack McGlynn made a motion to approve the rules as written, John Gallagher seconded the motion and it was carried.

The budget for FY 1987 was then discussed. Rich reviewed the fact that in order to make the budget cuts we were forced to reduce three positions. (Helena, Butte, and Billings). Because the office in Billings will be located in the clinic, Mr. Brown felt it quite necessary to have at least a part time secretary in that office. This would avoid the office being closed when the S.O. is out. He asked the Board for direction on how to fund this position. He felt that by the next Board meeting we would probably have additional space in the clinic. Jack McGlynn pointed out that we need to do something about getting secretaries in all of our offices including the Senior Service Officer's office at Fort Harrison. Not having a secretary puts too much strain on the Service Officer and he will end up quitting. Rich told the Board that these positions have been added to our budget to go before the Legislature in January. Bernie Opp then made a motion to try and find enough money to fund a position in the Billings office, Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried.

A discussion was held concerning the Governor's budget. Rich told the Board that he had asked for 19 F.T.E.'s and the budget came back with only 18. He felt we have a good chance of going beyond the Governor's budget by contacting our Legislatures and promoting support. He also noted that the Legacy Legislature is

backing funding for the Veterans Affairs Division. At this time, Jack McGlynn made a motion to have secretaries in all our field offices, including the Senior Service Officers' office at Fort Harrison, John Gallagher seconded the motion and it was carried.

Jack McGlynn opened a discussion on the Veterans Home at Columbia Falls. From his observations, he feels there is a real problem at the Home. Due to their budget problems, they have had to cut back and the patients are not getting the care they should. He suggested that the other members of the Board, if in the area, check into this also. Mr. McGlynn also went on to say he felt that the Board should look into the possibility of transferring the Veterans Home from the Department of Institutions to the Veterans Affairs Division. Rich Brown advised the Board that the American Legion has passed a resolution at their convention to support such a transfer. He also went on to say that there could be problems with the billing procedures and also having the Home assigned to the Department of Military Affairs, as, in the event of a strike, the National Guard is called to fill the positions on strike. John Gallagher said he felt the problems were secondary to the needs of the veterans. A motion was made by Jack McGlynn to have a Bill introduced to the Legislature to transfer Columbia Falls to the Veterans Affairs Division, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

Rich Brown then asked the Board if they wished to amend a previous motion limiting themselves on travel, so that they may be authorized to stay in Billings to attend the Aging Veterans Conference on Friday and the American Legion Rehabilitation Conference on the weekend. Bernie Opp moved this motion be amended for one time only. A discussion followed in which Jack McGlynn said he felt there was no criteria for this. He feels the Board represents the veterans of the State and need to have exposure. He pointed out that it cost money to attend veterans meetings and raised the question if only the wealthy could afford to serve on the Board. Neil Shepherd's opinion was that if a Board member attends these functions voluntarily, then they should not ask to be reimbursed by the State. Bernie Opp said she felt the Board should not expend funds from the travel budget if it means taking away from the Service Officer's travel. John Gallagher's feelings were that the Administrator and the Chairman of the Board should be reimbursed when called in, other meetings should be at their own expense. He also pointed out that when the Legislature meets we are going to need Board members there. Bob Durkee, who lives in Helena will be available, however we will need the Chairman and possibly other members to testify. We could also ask the Legislature for additional money for Board travel. Rich Brown concurred and also went on to say that we generally have a Service Officer at these veterans meetings and for the most part the veterans do not make a distinction between the Board member and a Service Officer. He feels the Board should approve their own travel. John Gallagher suggested that the Administrator should make recommendations to the Chairman and the Chairman could make the decisions. He feels Jack McGlynn's point is good but needs discretion. Bernie Opp then modified her motion to read "the limit on travel should be amended for one time only and the approval of all Board travel will be sanctioned by the Board. Bob Durkee seconded the motion and it was carried.

Because of the change in the State of Montana telephone system, Mountain Bell can no longer bill the State under the old credit card system. Rich Brown asked the Board if they would like new credit cards or use their travel claims for reimbursement of telephone calls. A short discussion followed and the end result being Bernie Opp making a motion not to issue telephone credit cards but to use travel claims when necessary. John Gallagher seconded the motion and it was carried.

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona the week of September 15, 1986. Montana has not been represented at this yearly conference for the past two years. This year, because of prior commitments, the Administrator could not attend, Fred Olson, the Senior Service Officer was designated to go. Mr. Olson gave the Board a brief report of the conference saying he felt it was extremely worth while. There were numerous speakers including General Turnage, the Administrator of the Veterans Administration. Nine different resolutions were passed concerning veterans benefits. Mr. Olson was grateful he had had the opportunity to attend.

Under other business to be discussed, Rich Brown informed the Board that the Counties are trying to disqualify widows from the property tax relief and feels it will take legislation to clarify the law, and that an Attorney Generals Opinion will not be strong enough.

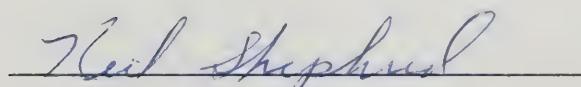
Rich advised the Board that the business of the Division has been steadily increasing and this is, in part, due to the older veterans seeking benefits. Our Service Officers are doing a tremendous job and we will continue to do the best we can for as long as we can. Our awards for the first two months of this year are over 3 million dollars. This is a 70% increase over last years.

Rich also passed out a print out of last years expenditures which showed individual offices plus the catagory.

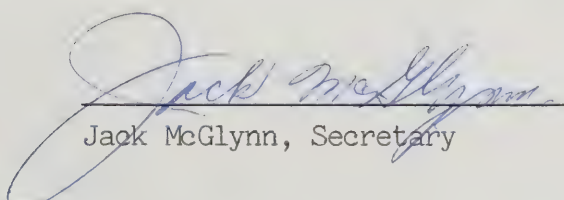
John Grauman, former Board member from Billings was then presented a certificate, signed by Governor Schwinden, for his fifteen years of dedicated service as a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs. John thanked everone and said he has enjoyed his terms as a member of the Board.

John Gallagher addressed the issue of which veterans meetings the Board should attend. Rich will send out schedules of meetings of the Service Organizations and the members should contact the Chairman for direction as to which meetings to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 P.M. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, December 5th at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory in Helena.



Neil Shepherd, Chairman



Jack McGlynn, Secretary

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Neil Shepherd on December 5, 1986 at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory in Helena with the following members and guests present:

Bob Durkee, Member
 Jack McGlynn, Secretary
 Bernie Opp, Member
 John Gallagher, Vice Chairman
 James Duffy, Adjutant General

Rich Brown, Administrator
 Marie Hinman, Admin. Sec.
 Fred Olson, Sen. Ser. Officer
 Tony Cumming, American Legion
 Bob McKenna, Eng. Consultant

A motion was made by Bernadette Opp to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Jack McGlynn and carried.

The first item on the agenda was the cemetery. Rich Brown brought up the fact that at the last meeting there were some questions concerning the project. He had invited Bob McKenna, who is the engineering consultant, so he could explain the project and answer any questions. Bob handed out a revised master plan and went into the background of how the cemetery was originated and the progress that has been made. The matching fund money has been requested from the Federal Government and will be used for Phase I, which is to complete the roads and irrigation system. A discussion was held on the irrigation and Bob explained that a well will be drilled on the east end of the cemetery and pumps will be used for irrigation. A later phase of the project will sophisticate the system by automating the system rather than manual labor. (Pulling hoses, etc.) Phase #2 of the project is to build ponds which would require an additional 3 wells. John Gallagher asked about storage tanks versus ponds. Bob explained that storage tanks would be less costly to operate but more costly initially. John said he felt it would be better to have storage tanks and then if they are not needed, then they could be sold. Bob said that it would all depend on the money available. General Duffy stated that there may be a possibility that the National Guard could assist in drilling the wells. Bernie Opp suggested that as long as the Guard has their equipment there to do the initial well would it be possible to do all four wells at once? General Duffy's answer was yes, but it all depends on the time available. Bob also stated that help will be needed in the tree planting etc. The trees will be purchased by donations from various groups. Rich Brown commented that the flag pole and flag will also be donated by some veterans group. Jack McGlynn thought he could get a flag. He will look into the possibility. Rich said he has also written a letter to Representative Bob Pavlovich to introduce legislation to have a check off on the income tax form for the cemetery, perhaps \$5.00 or \$10.00. We will also put up a plaque, but have to decide what to say on it. He has checked with the V.A. at Fort Harrison concerning sharing of maintenance. The V.A. felt it would be cheaper for us to hire our own maintenance as their costs would be too much. Bob thanked the Board for inviting him to their meeting and said that if there are any questions to feel free to contact him.

The next item on the agenda was the transfer of the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls from the Department of Institutions to the Department of Military Affairs. At the last meeting the Board instructed Rich Brown to contact a Legislator to introduce a Bill to accomplish this. Rich wrote a letter to Ron Miller but through an oversight on his part did not send a copy to General Duffy for which he apologized. Rich told the Board that he had heard from the Governor's office and the Governor is not supportive of the transfer, as it would create too many problems. General Duffy said he is also opposed to the transfer as he couldn't take care of it administratively. He doesn't have the staff available. The billing system would also be a problem, as his staff is not trained in the rules and regulations of running a nursing home. He feels the Board could do more good by influencing the present operation rather than taking it over. Rich then asked the Board for direction on what he should do as Ron Miller had agreed to introduce a Bill at our request. John Gallagher asked if we had any projections on the cost of taking over the home. Rich said that just the billing part alone would be a 100% increase. John asked for a ball park guess on what it would cost to take over the home, Rich estimated in the neighborhood of \$100,000.00. Bernie then made a motion to drop the previous motion to transfer the Home. Chairman Shepherd asked for a second. Due to the lack of a second to the motion more discussion followed. The end result was Bernie amending her motion to postpone transferring the Home until a financial impact study could be done. John Gallagher seconded the motion and it was carried. Jack McGlynn asked how many veterans were on V.A. contract at private nursing homes? Fred Olson estimated there were about 100. Rich Brown said that there is a possibility of making two wings at the Galen State Hospital into nursing home beds for veterans which would accommodate approximately forty patients. It would be an auxiliary unit to Columbia Falls. This however has been suggested before and there was a fiscal note attached for \$800,000.00. Jack asked that Rich look into this. General Duffy stated that he would remain opposed to transferring the Veterans Home to the Department of Military Affairs. It doesn't belong to Military Affairs, it should remain at the Department of Institutions. John Gallagher stated that if the situation doesn't improve, we should take the steps necessary, it's our responsibility.

Concerning the secretarial situation, Rich advised the Board that a review of our budget indicated that we could hire a half time position in one field office. Due to the Billings office moving to the Clinic, there was not space available to accommodate another person there. In the Butte office, we could hire a half-time secretary and the Job Service would provide the other half of the salary with the O.J.T. program. Of the applicants that applied, two were veterans and they were the ones that were interviewed. Rich said his preference would be Sherrie Parko. Jack McGlynn made a motion to hire Sherrie, Bernie Opp seconded the motion and it was carried.

Moving on to the next order of business, the current budget was then discussed. Rich advised the Board that we may have some savings in salaries and rent but are overspent in travel and communications. These items should balance themselves out. We have also encumbered \$3,000.00 for auditors fees.

For fiscal year 1986 we were appropriated \$470,000.00. That figure was reduced to \$451,000.00 for fiscal year 1987. The proposed figure for fiscal year 1988 is \$455,000.00 and for fiscal year 1989 it is \$444,000.00. The \$11,000.00 difference is because of auditors fees and micro-film service.

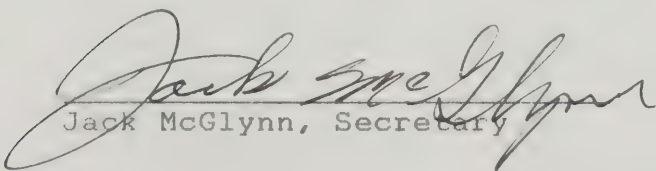
Our current level of employees is 17 but with any major cuts will be unable to continue with that level. Jack McGlynn stated that he thought we could get additional funding through the Butte legislators.


Mr. Brown went on to say that he will advise Ron Miller to postpone the Bill to transfer Columbia Falls and he has asked Dick Manning to sponsor a Bill for property tax exemption. A recent Attorney General's Opinion on the current law was negative in the fact that it disqualifies many widows and is limiting the veterans relief. He will also ask Bob Pavlovich to sponsor a Bill for a revenue check off on the Income Tax form for the Veterans Cemetery. Tony Cumming asked if we were going to ask the Legislature for more money for the Cemetery? Rich replied he didn't feel there was any chance of getting any at this time. Jack McGlynn suggested we wait until Phase I is completed. It was also noted that the U.V.C. is working on the Veterans Preference Bill. Legislation may be introduced to change the Bill to be more in line with the Federal Veterans Preference.

The Board was advised that Fred Olson, Senior Service Officer and Rich Brown had been invited to go to Washington D.C. in February to the American Legion National Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. They will both attend but not at the same time.

The last order of business concentrated again on the Legislature with Rich asking the Board for personal support during this session. Although the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Budget had not been revealed yet, he anticipated severe cuts or elimination of our Division and we will not have the good support we have had in the past in Committees. The Board concurred.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned. The next meeting has been scheduled for April 3, 1987 at the National Guard Armory in Helena.


Jack McGlynn, Secretary


Neil Shepherd, Chairman

A regular meeting of the Board of Veterans Affairs was called to order by Chairman Neil Shepherd on April 10, 1987 at 10:00 A.M. in the National Guard Armory in Helena. The meeting was attended by all Division staff members who were in Helena for a training session at Fort Harrison. Members and other guests present were:

Bob Durkee, Member
Jack McGlynn, Secretary
John Gallagher, Vice Chairman
Tony Cumming, Am. Leg.

Rich Brown, Administrator
Marie Hinman, Adm. Sec.
Fred Olson, Sen. Ser. Officer
George Poston, D.A.V.

Bernadette Opp, member was not in attendance due to a previous commitment with the National Guard.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to each member. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as written.

The first order of business was a report on the cemetery. Rich Brown informed the Board that there had been some requests to change the rules of operation to include making the National Guard eligible for burial. Also, questions had come up concerning whether the spouse of the Guard would be eligible, who would set the fees for burial for spouses and if the veteran is not eligible for the \$150.00 plot allowance from the V.A., then would the family of the veteran be billed the \$150.00. Rich went on to say that the U.V.C. had discussed and approved the changes to allow the National Guard and spouses eligibility for the cemetery, the fee for the spouse would be \$150.00 (same as veteran) and if the veteran was not eligible for the V.A. plot allowance, then the family of the deceased would be billed the \$150.00. He asked that the Board concur with the changes in the form of a motion. Jack McGlynn made a motion to accept the rules as changed, John Gallagher seconded the motion and it was carried. Rich said he expected the cemetery would be operational by this fall but was still looking for veteran participation for a flag pole, flag and a sign.

The next order of business was a legislature update. Rich reported that any attempts to reduce our Division's appropriations had failed and to date our appropriations (which is part of House Bill 2) remains, as submitted. The Veterans Highway Memorial Bill has passed and the Revenue Write Off on the State income tax had passed. He wished the Board to know that Senator Regan from Billings had helped us with the revenue write off Bill by having the fiscal note attached, removed. Other Bills included the Surviving Spouses Property Tax Exemption, which passed with only minor amendments, the Veterans Preference has passed the House and the change in the old veterans preference to include the university system had passed the House but was killed in the Senate. There had been speculation about a Bill to do away with the free tuition and fees at the university system for veterans, however the bill was never drafted.

The current budget for 1987 was then discussed. Rich informed the Board that communications, travel and equipment had run over but the salaries and rent were under and it was his intention to balance the two to break even. He felt it would be very close. He would like, if we have additional funds, to get a secretary for the Billings office. This may be even accomplished through a work study person. Jerry is investigating this possibility. The 2% savings order by the Governor has been made up in salaries, by not filling the Helena Service Officer position. We have also moved Sherrie Parko, secretary in Butte, to a Grade 10. This position is being partially funded by the Butte Job Service on a work study program until July 1, 1987.

The projected budget for the 88/89 fiscal year is for 18 full time employees. The proposal is for \$479,000.00 which includes \$30,000.00 Veterans Administration cemetery money. This modified amount has to be approved by the State Legislature to have the spending authority for the \$30,000.00.

We do not know about vacancy savings for the biennium or if salaries will be frozen. The salary increase bill will probably be held until the revenue bill is passed. In the event the salary increases are a reality, we would have to use our current funding which could mean reducing employees.

The question was then raised by Rich Brown on where the Board would like to hold its next meeting. The D.A.V. will be meeting in Billings in May, the V.F.W. will meet in Havre in June and the American Legion will meet in Billings in July. Bob Durkee made a motion to hold the next meeting in Billings on July 10th at the American Legion Convention. Jack McGlynn seconded the motion and it was carried. The time has been set for 2:00 P.M.

Rich Brown advised the Board that Cheryl Spencer, Service Officer from Billings has resigned. Jerry Collins, Service Officer from Wolf Point has been re-assigned to the Billings office. We have advertized for applications for the Wolf Point office but since the announcement did not close until Wednesday, the 8th of April, we have not received all of the applications. In accordance with the Board's policy, when all applications are in, the Administrator, Senior Service Officer and one Board member, (in this case John Galligher) will review the applications, select those to be interviewed, hold the interviews and send the resumes to the other four Board members with a recommendation on who they feel is best qualified. The rest of the Board will then at that time have an opportunity to voice their approval or objection. Jerry Collins offered to assist the newly hired individual in any way he could.

Under other business, Rich advised the Board that our field offices had made the veterans around the State aware of the possible elimination of the Division and over 1,000 letter had been sent to the Chairman of our committee in protest. He feels there will probably be more letters coming. Also, Denny Dolan

from Butte had worked extremely hard on behalf of the Division at the Legislature, and Rich suggested the Board may want to send him a letter thanking him for his efforts. The Board agreed and Chairman Shepherd asked a letter be drafted in the Helena office and sent to Mr. Dolan.

George Poston then asked for the floor. He said that in talking to the veterans, they would like to support the cemetery program in the form of donations, however they were concerned about the money being separated from the Veterans Affairs budget. He wanted to know who controls the money and where the money figures were in writing. He felt a cemetery revenue write off was not necessary, that the money could be gathered in other ways. He also asked if this grant money from the Federal Government would end in calendar year 1988? Rich told Mr. Poston that there is ample money available from the Federal Government in the form of matching grants, in fact there is a surplus and the applications for grant money have always been approved. George then requested a copy of the cemeteries operating procedures and written documentation on how the money is controlled so that he may pass it on to the Service Organizations.

John Gallagher assured Mr. Poston that the Cemetery money is separate from the Division budget, and also added that he, for one, was in favor of the revenue check off. Its a one time deal and feels that if the public is informed that is would be very successful.

George then asked if there was a separate cemetery Board other than the Board of Veterans Affairs? Neil Shepherd replied that the Board of Veterans Affairs is the controlling Board. Rich Brown added that the United Veterans Council has an input and we must have authority from the State Legislature to spend any money. There is also a project manager, Mike Bolin, who handles the engineering. The Veterans Affairs Board and United Veterans Committee work together to get what the veterans want.

Jack McGlynn pointed out that he was originally the Chairman of the Cemetery Committee but stepped down in favor of General Duffy who was in more of a position to take care of things.

George Poston then asked that he be given clarification on how the money was used as he was not going to bust his ___ to raise money for some bureaucrat to float all over the Country with. He wants something in writing. Rich said that we do have written documentation for Phase I of the cemetery and would see George gets a copy.

More discussion on the rules clarification was held and the end result was that, other than minor changes, the rules were well received.

Fred Olson was then given the floor to give a report on his meeting with the Service Officers. He said the Service Officers

has asked him to bring the following to the Board attention:

1. They would like signs for their itinerary stops;
2. That each Service Officer be allowed to come to Helena to spend two days working with Fred at the Fort;
3. That the next training session be moved to a location other than Helena (away from the Government atmosphere);
4. That the possibility of getting a secretary for Jerry Collins in Billings be looked into;
5. That the Service Officers be reclassified to a higher grade. (He asked to have this submitted in the 89-90 budget.)

John Gallagher said he felt that we need a secretary in every office and this should become a priority. If space is not available, then move the office to a location where it is available.

Discussion was brought up on privacy, handicapped access, telephone costs and the possibility of moving into a Senior Citizen Center. Rich Brown at this point told the Board that he had proposed in our upcoming budget to have a secretary in each office and also put an office in Havre. The budget office answered no, there would be no additions, in fact we lost 1/2 a position. He and Bob Durkee also had met with the Governor about more employees and the suggestion was not receptive. John Gallagher suggested we work with the Governor on this. Rich said in his experience that if a budget goes over a million dollars, it is questioned.

At this point Bob Durkee passed out a resolution which is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Veterans' Affairs is a legally established body under Sec. 10-2-101, MCA, with certain statutory duties and officers; and

WHEREAS, policy-making on behalf of the Board is strictly the duty of the Board and/or its elected officers; and

WHEREAS, during legislative sessions, as well as on other occasions, statements have been made and matter publicly discussed by individuals relating to Board policy without authority from the Board, and often to the detriment of the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That only those persons authorized by action of the Board of Veterans Affairs to do so shall act as spokesmen for the board; and

2. That this resolution be filed as a Statement of Policy of the Board of Veterans Affairs until rescinded or amended.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1987.

Rich Brown asked the Board if this resolution was meant for him because of HB 38? No one responded.

Bob Durkee made a motion to pass the resolution, Jack McGlynn

seconded the resolution and it was passed.

Rich asked the Board if this meant he should ask the Board to vote on their position before making any statement?

Bob Durkee answered that it would be helpful.

John Gallagher asked for an explanation of what was going on.

Rich explained that there had been questions concerning the veterans preference bill and he had concurred that some of the wording needed to be changed. Representative Bob Pavlovich from Butte had called him on the phone and accused him of trying to undermine his bill and also threatened to do away with the Division. Rich said he felt that there was distention because he had not appeared to testify on HB 38 and had appeared on numerous other bills concerning veterans.

John Gallagher said he felt the restriction is too great.

Rich then questioned the Board that if he could not reach all of the members for an opinion, then would no one appear? He also stated that he felt that Representative Pavlovich was upset at him because George Poston, lobbyist for the U.V.C. has gone to him and told him Rich was working against the Veterans Preference Bill. George Poston responded that he didn't go to Pavlovich until after two other people had.

John Gallagher pointed out that if the Board is going to have a representative there, then that individual needs authority.

Rich said that he has tried to keep the Board advised on what is going on however he has not received any response back from the Board. He then asked if now, before he can take any action pro or con, does he need input from the Board? He also asked for an explanation on where the offense was done.

Bob Durkee answered by citing the mission change at Miles City. He said he had written his Congressmen opposing additional nursing home beds at the expense of the surgical unit and then Rich made statements endorsing the change. He said it was an embarrassing situation when he was in Washington D.C.

Rich said that as Administrator of the Division he had made this decision due to the need for more nursing home beds.

Rich then asked the Board if what they were implying is that he is forbidden to comment on anything without Board approval? If this be the case, it creates a real problem. He said he felt he could not live with that.

John Gallagher said he felt the restriction could be detrimental to the Division.

Jack McGlynn said, the fact is, that no one makes statements that reflects the opinion of the Board. This is limited to the budget only. He said the Board has been too lax in letting the Administrator do their job.

Neil Shepherd said it could also go the other way. If the Administrator needs Board approval on everything he does, then why does the Board need an Administrator.

John Gallagher concurred, adding the Administrator needs leeway.

Pam Pederson, Service Officer from Miles City said it was her opinion, that in eastern Montana the reason for the opposition for the change at Miles City was because the private nursing homes were afraid of the lost business if the V.A. created more nursing home beds at the hospital.

Dennis Pfaff, Service Officer from Bozeman, asked if this restriction also applied to the Service Officers?

Jack McGlynn answered that this applies only to Board action. What the discussion is about is political speeches.

Jerry Collins, Service Officer from Wolf Point said more nursing home beds were needed. The elderly veteran needs care.

Ariene Soderstrom, Service Officer from Kalispell, asked the Board if the Service Officers should no longer give opinions?

Rich then told the Board that when he was asked if he was in favor of additional nursing home beds at the Miles City veterans hospital, he answered the question, "yes".

Bob Durkee said this was not the issue.

Neil Shepherd then stated that the resolution had been passed but it is going to cause friction. Perhaps it should be tabled until the next meeting when a full Board is present.

John Gallagher made a motion that the resolution not be accepted until a full Board is present. Jack McGlynn pointed out that the resolution has already passed and now the procedure would be to rescind the original motion. John Gallagher then changed his motion to say the resolution be rescinded. The motion died from lack of a second. Chairman Shepherd concluded the resolution will stand, until the next Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Neil Shepherd
NEIL SHEPHERD, CHAIRMAN

Jack McGlynn
JACK MCGLYNN, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N _____

WHEREAS, the Board of Veterans' Affairs is a legally established body under Sec. 10-2-101, MCA, with certain statutory duties and officers; and

WHEREAS, policy-making on behalf of the Board is strictly the duty of the Board and/or its elected officers; and

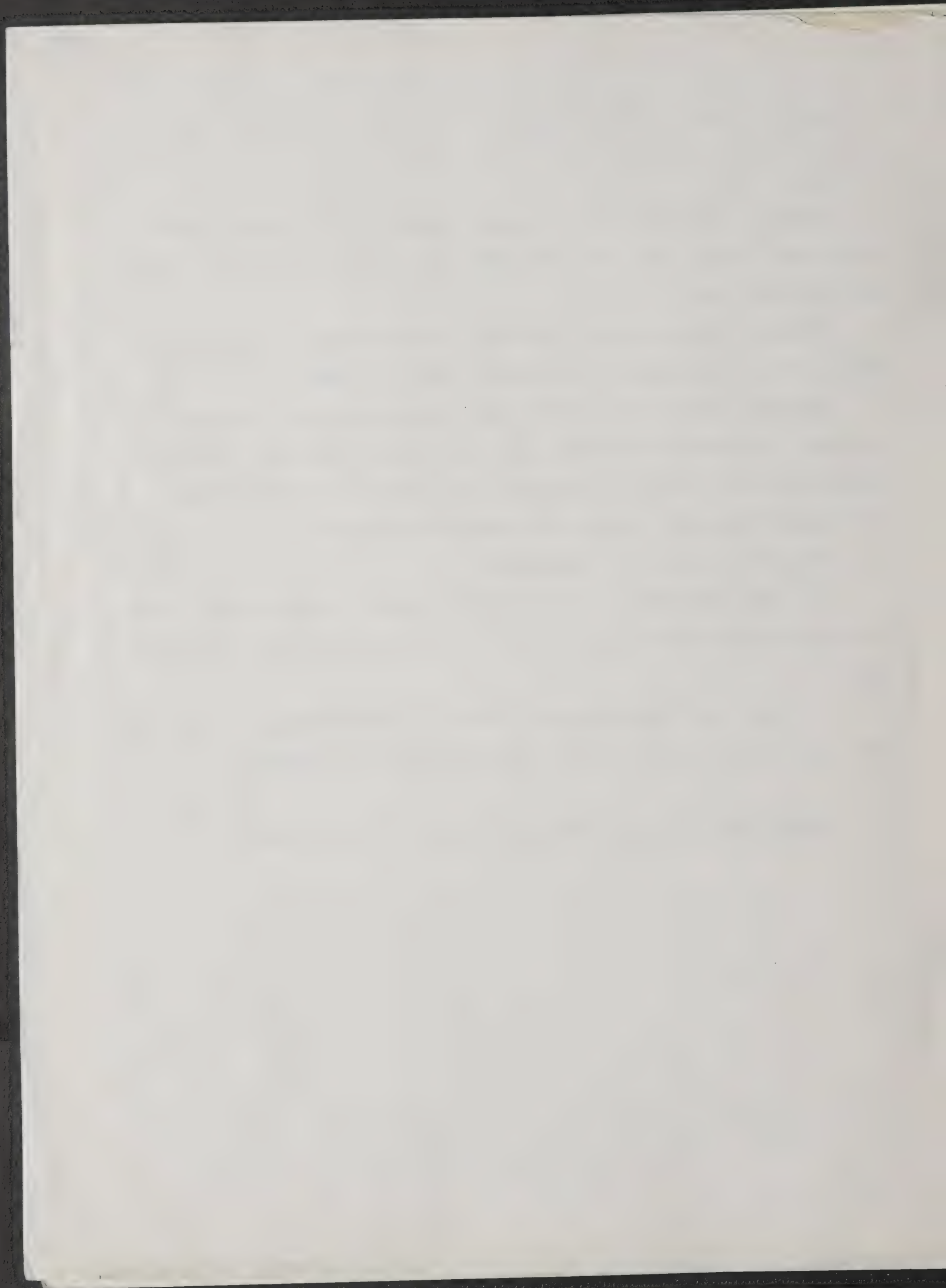
WHEREAS, during legislative sessions, as well as on other occasions, statements have been made and matters publicly discussed by individuals relating to Board policy without authority from the Board, and often to the detriment of the Board;

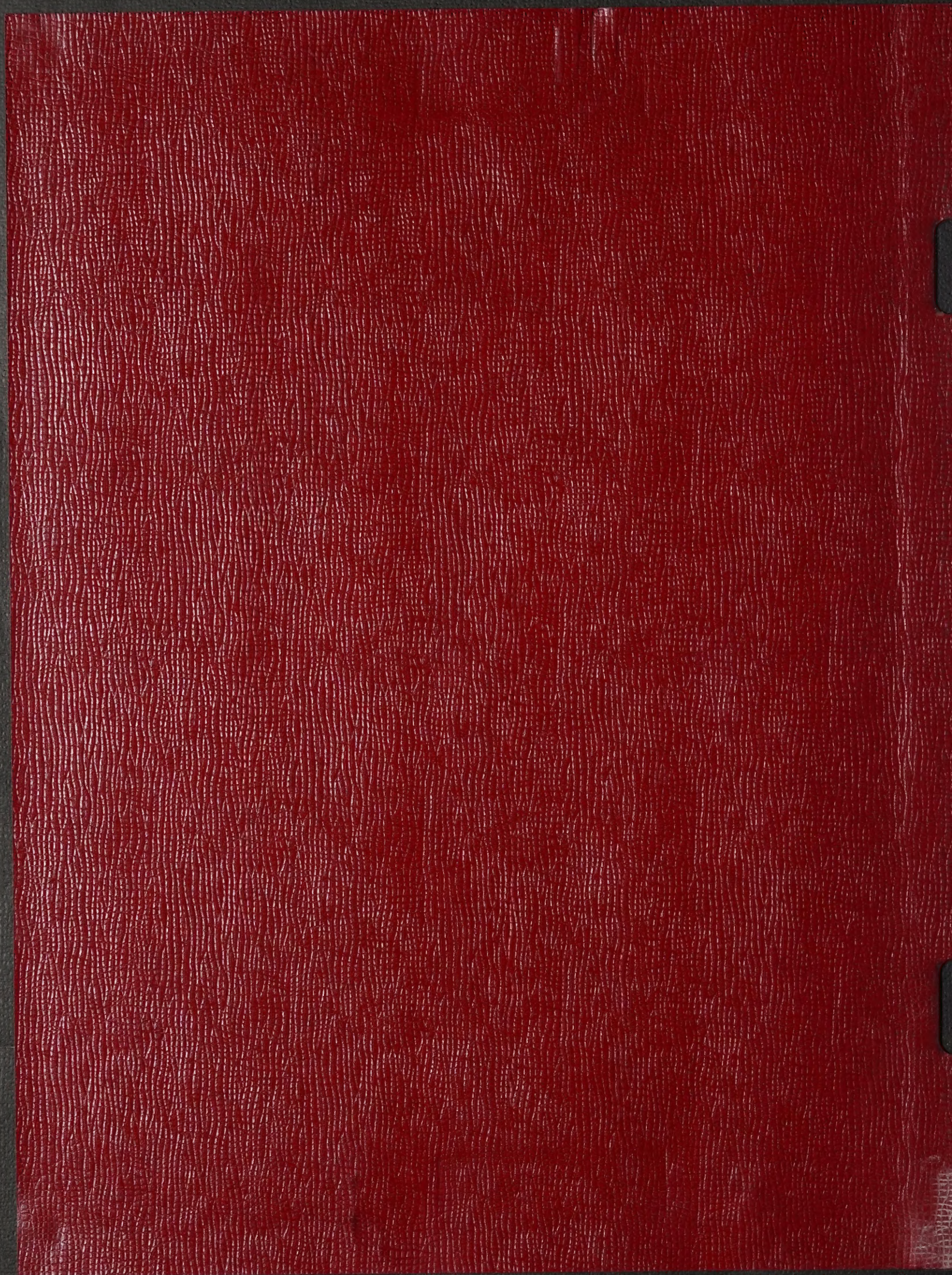
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

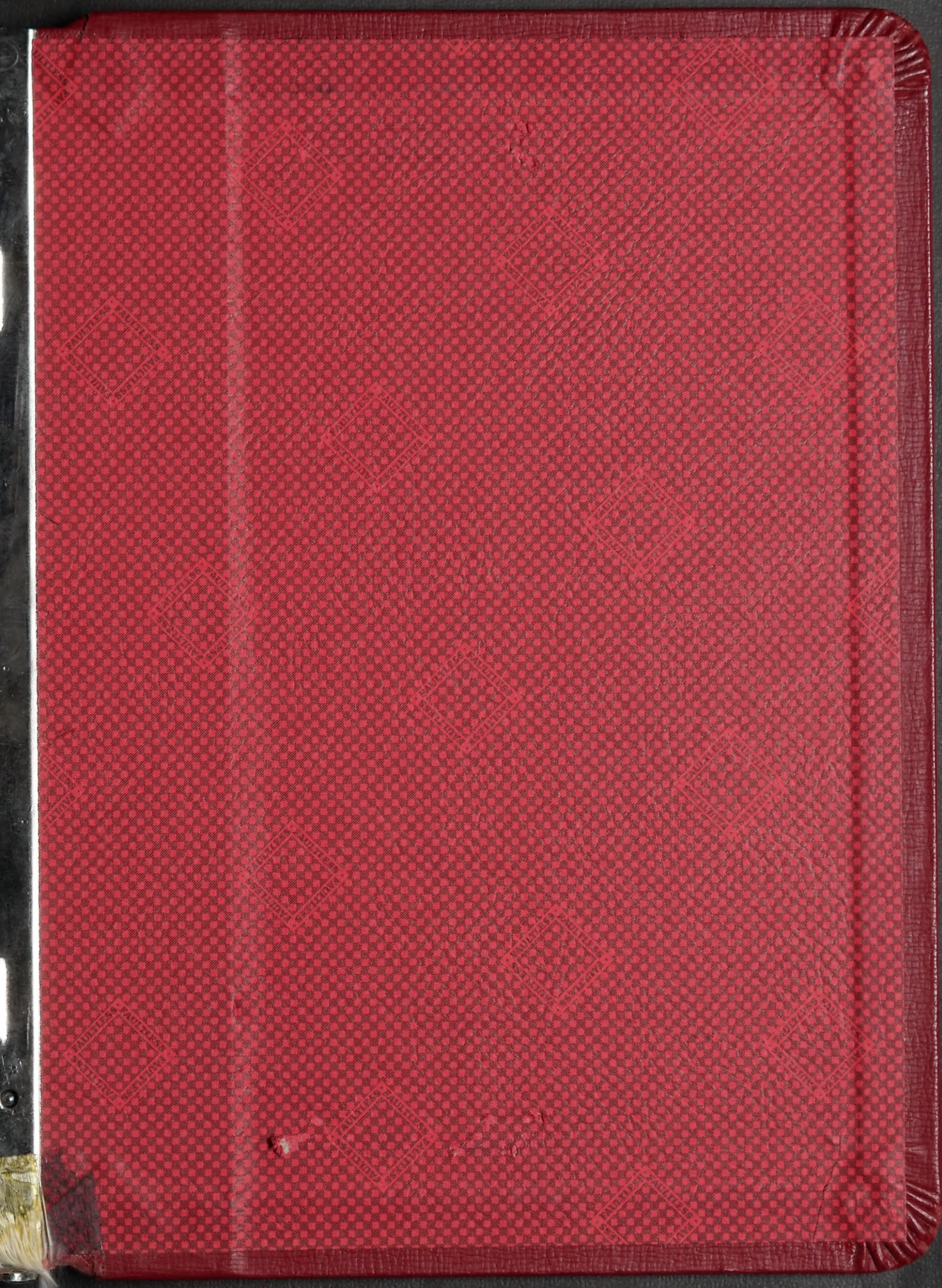
1. That only those persons authorized by action of the Board of Veterans Affairs to do so shall act as spokesmen for the Board; and

2. That this Resolution be filed as a Statement of Policy of the Board of Veterans Affairs until rescinded or amended.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1987.







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